

INSIDE SOCCER

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WAYNE'S WORLD!
NIPEY ON THE
RIKERS, PAGE 10.
S ALL THE UK
PREMIER NEWS AND
MATCH REPORTS.



AND SPECIAL FEATURE ON SCHOOLS FOOTBALL



THE CHOSEN ONE



Met the new Socceroo coach. After four candidates were interviewed in Sydney on the weekend, *Inside Soccer* believes the two gentlemen above, Eddie Krncevic (right) and Frank Farina, have the best chance of receiving the phone call today from Soccer Australia Chairman Basil Scarsella.

The other interviewees were Parramatta Power's David Mitchell and South Melbourne's Ange Postecoglou. Raul Blanco was not interviewed because the board was already aware of what our Olyroo coach is all about.

Chairman Scarsella revealed to us late Sunday night that a decision has been made but the new appointee won't know until today or tomorrow.

The decision is expected to be announced to the media this Saturday in Sydney.

In front of the five man Soccer Australia panel all candidates exhibited confidence, with Farina and Krncevic impressing the most.

As the likeable Scarsella noted, he viewed the position of a coach similar to that of a manager, with a wholistic approach being taken into consideration.

This includes aspects such as deal-

ing with Soccer Australia, and the many media engagements a coach, on behalf of the sport, must undertake.

Interestingly, Perth Glory Chairman Nick Tana, in an exclusive and wide-ranging interview, alluded to this regarding his coach Bernd Stange. He says the importance of the coach to the public face of a team and sport is vital (see interview on pages seven and eight).

The decision to undertake an interview process gave the board an opportunity to meet the candidates on an informal basis to see what plans they had for this vital stage of our future.

As Eddie Krncevic noted: "Short-

term it's vital to qualify for the World Cup, but we do need a long-term plan."

Frank Farina agreed that the World Cup was "the bottom line."

Scarsella was complimentary of all the candidates, describing them as "excellent individuals" who have come up through the system here and we should be proud of the talent produced in this country.

Once the candidate is settled in he will, in consultation with Soccer Australia, choose his support staff.

More on page three...

NSL TRANSFER UPDATE

PERTH GLORY:
Gains: Ivan Ergic, Kasey Wehrman, Peter Buljan, Hamilton Thorp.

Losses: Danny Hay, Gavin Wilkinson, Craig Deans, Gianfranco Circati, Vasko Trpcovski, Michael Garcia, John Markovski, Paul Strudwick, Tony Carbone

Possible Gain: Aaron Cole, Dion Valle, Chilean Trialist

Possible Loss: Con Boutsianis, Danny Milosevic

ADELAIDE CITY:

Gains: Aurelio Vidmar, Ivan Zelic, Danny Vidakovic

Losses: Travis Dodd, David Terminello, Dino Menillo, Brad Armour

Possible Gain: Two from o/s

Possible Loss: Damian Mori, Angelo Costanzo, Jason Petkovic, David Hassell

ADELAIDE SHARKS:

Gains: Brad Armour

Losses: Richie Alagich, Alex Duric, Hamilton Thorp, Alex Castro

Possible Loss: Derek Poimer, Corey Artone, Nathan Wildy, Paul Souris, John Gibson, Joel Porter

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:

Losses: Tom Pondeljak

SOUTH MELBOURNE:
Gains: Richie Alagich, Anthony Magnacca

Losses: Jason Polak

Possible Gain: James Afkos

Possible Loss: Goran Lozanovski, Con Blatsis (o/s trialling), Michael Petkovic (o/s trialling)

CARLTON:

Gains: David Terminello, David McPherson, Craig Deans, Andrew Packer, Angie Motsiopolous, Joshua Kennedy, John Markovski,

Possible Gain: Mike Conroy, Corey Artone

Losses: Marco Bresciano, Marcus Stergiopoulos, Rick van Steeden

CANBERRA:

Gains: Brian Hamilton, Alex Castro, Jason Polak

Losses: Lindsay Wilson, Peter Buljan, Ivan Zelic, Norman Kelly, Anthony Magnacca

Possible Gain: David Elliot

Possible Loss: PJ Roberts

WOLLONGONG:

Gains: Alvin Ceccoli, David Cervinski, Adrian Cervinski

Losses: Sebastian Sinozic

SYDNEY OLYMPIC:

Gains: Lindsay Wilson, Zlatko

Arambasic, Marcus Phillips
Losses: Jason Culina, Milan Blagojevic,

Possible Loss: Mehmed Durakovic, Ante Juric, Elias Augerinos, Leo Carle, Norman Tome, Mark Brennan

MARCONI:

Possible Gain: Damien Brown, Harry Karl,

Possible Loss: Marcus Phillips Ante Covic, Brad Maloney, Buddy Farah, Vlado Zoric

SYDNEY UNITED:

Gains: Eddy Bosnar, Tom Pondeljak

Losses: Mile Sterjovski, Joel Griffiths, Jacob Burns, Walter Ardone,

Steve Eagleton, Danny Townsend, Richard Plesa, David Barrett, Michael Santalab, Joe Vrkic, Steve Berry, Joel Griffiths

PARRAMATTA POWER:

Gains: Mile Sterjovski, Joel Griffiths, Jacob Burns, Walter Ardone, Steven Laybutt, Steve Eagleton, Danny Townsend, Richard Plesa, David Barrett,

Michael Santalab, Joe Vrkic, Steve Berry, Joel Griffiths, Milan Blagojevic,

Possible Gain: Ray Houghton, John Gibson, John Angeluci

NORTHERN SPIRIT:

Gains: Simon Catanzaro, Michael Turnbull, David Seal, Jessie Van Stratten

Losses: Kresimir Marusic, Gabriel Mendez, Eddy Bosnar, Robert Enes, Paul Foster, Adem Poric



NEWCASTLE:

Gains: Travis Dodd, Luke Tomich, Vasko Trpcovski

Losses: Robert Shannon, Freddy Umlit, Sang Chul Yoon

Possible Loss: Andrew Borghetto, Chris Tancheski

BRISBANE:

Losses: Kasey Wehrman, Steven Laybutt, Chay Hews, Andrew Packer

Possible Gain: Leo Langone, Adem Poric (pictured above).

Possible Loss: Chris Zoricich, Andy Harper

AUCKLAND KINGS:

Gains: Marcus Stergiopoulos, Rick van Steeden, Fred de Jong, Jason Batty, Chris Jackson, Harry Ngata, Gavin Wilkinson, Joshua Stick, Dino Menillo

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ONE YEAR \$88

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English footie is back on and we've got it covered in the global pages.

SO, DID YOU GET THE JOB?

By Aidan Ormond

That's the question friends and families were asking the four outstanding Australian Soccer identities, each with a respect for the national shirt, interviewed for the position of Socceroo coach on Saturday. Eddie Krncevic, Frank Farina, David Mitchell and Ange Postecoglou were interviewed by a board of five from Soccer Australia on Saturday in Sydney.

And, as Soccer Australia Chairman Basil Scarsella told *Inside Soccer*, he knows which one will be given the job, but the new Socceroo coach has not yet been notified.

The media conference is almost certain to be this Saturday in Sydney.

Of the interviewees Eddie Krncevic, with his 15 years of experience in Europe, was philosophical about the decision. "I

was well prepared for the interview, I have been developing for some time my proposals and planning and some considerable thought went into my plans so I was quite happy how it went.

"At the end of the day whoever gets the job will have my full support, all I want is for us to qualify for 2002. It hurt me badly to miss qualification last time.

"You don't know about these things. It seems to be a little Sydney-based, with Ange and myself being portrayed as outsiders from Melbourne, but it was good that I got a chance to talk with the board.

"The positive thing is that one of us will get the job, which will open the door to the younger generation of coaches.

"With all respect to Venables and co. they did not get us to the World Cup."

He added: "Obviously there aren't too many positions available here in Australia, but I don't want to be idle. If I don't get a job here I would rather be

working so I would definitely consider a job in Europe."

"The interview," said Marconi coach Frank Farina, "gave an opportunity to discuss some important issues related to the position, and the interview committee asked some searching questions.

"The bottom-line is getting us to the next World Cup. Everyone being considered for the position is a worthy contender and whoever gets the job deserves the full support of everyone in the Australian football community - players, coaches, administrators, media and fans."

Chairman Scarsella also noted that he regards a coach being no different to a manager. "You can see from a results perspective, but also you have to employ someone you can get on with, who can communicate with the media and all of those things," he said pointedly.

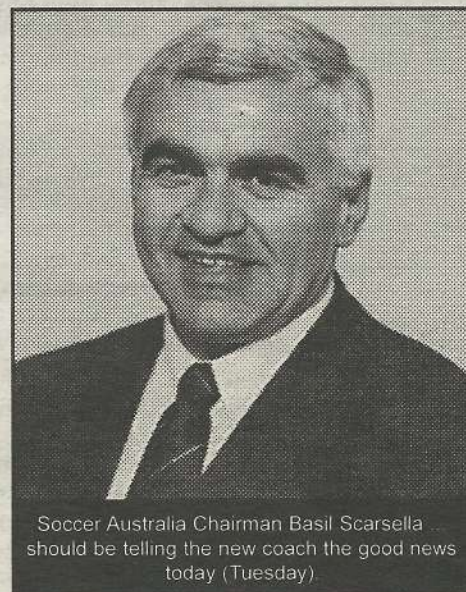
"All of those guys we interviewed I knew so I could make a call on this myself, but to fair to the board it was useful for everyone to meet the guys and talk to them to see what they have to say.

"We did not interview Raul Blanco because we know him already. Everyone did really well. The pleasing thing is that each one is an excellent individual and we should be proud that we can produce such quality individuals.

"The situation with David Mitchell and Sydney United's planned legal action has no impact whatsoever on the national coaching situation.

"There will be no assistant coach, the new coach will put forward his support staff. Obviously we don't want to impose on him someone he doesn't want to work with.

"At the end of the day the five board



Soccer Australia Chairman Basil Scarsella should be telling the new coach the good news today (Tuesday).

members decide, not one. The idea of Marconi boss Tony Labbozzetta (also on the Soccer Australia board) as the unofficial Farina campaign manager, as

described in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, well, obviously people come to certain conclusions. I can't help that. I assure you all five on the board will have a say."

So this is the week that an Australian born coach will finally take over the Socceroos.

That in itself is a significant step for us, and if this locally born coach can take us to World Cup 2002 it will finally put Australian coaches, who grow up with a respect for the shirt, in the ascendency.

And the lack of back-biting among the candidates is a refreshing change in the highly politicised world of Australian soccer.

The pleasing thing is that each one is an excellent individual and we should be proud that we can produce such quality individuals.

Basil Scarsella, S.A. Chairman

SOUTH SET TO CAPITALISE, SAYS NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Yesterday was the first day on the job for South Melbourne's new General Manager Damien Phillips. Last season he spent the final six months of the campaign in the same role at Melbourne Knights. South has invested wisely in his talents and Phillips is over the moon at the opportunity to work with the back-to-back champions of Australia.

"I am very very happy to be working for such a professional organisation as South Melbourne," he said.

"The excitement and buzz around this place is quite awesome.

"The club is being very proactive in the sponsorships area so it's going to be busy in the next two months before the season's start.

"It is so exciting to be part of the best club in the league. The professionalism is unbelievable, and it will be an enjoyable task to be part of this club's push to be the biggest sporting club in the state," he added.

"There is already an existing profile and we hope to continue pushing the limits to see just how far this great club can

really go," he said enthusiastically.

Phillips is especially looking forward to South playing in Brazil on the big stage in the World Club Championship. "Obviously we have to qualify first, but it will help the guys tune-up before the start of the NSL.

"The other football codes cannot genuinely promote themselves on a world stage; we now have that unique opportunity.

"The NSL is moving very fast and with the advent of the new clubs, the league just keeps getting stronger," he concluded.

Meanwhile, South coach Ange Postecoglou looks to be making minimum changes to his winning squad.

Postecoglou, fresh from his interview with Soccer Australia, said that Blatsis and Petkovic were overseas trialling and had a "a 50% or so chance" of being picked up.

With the signings of Alagich and Magnacca, the squad has had minimal changes made to it in an attempt to win an unprecedented 'triple'.

PEPSI: THE CHOICE OF THE NSW FEDERATION

The President of the NSW Soccer Federation, Peter Gray, announced a new sponsorship for the Federation at the Super League Gold Medal Dinner.

From 2000, the Pepsi-Cola company will sponsor NSW's Super Youth League and Youth League competitions in what is thought to be one of the most generous sponsorships in Australia for a youth-level competition.

Mr Gray said that the competitions would be known as the Pepsi Super Youth League and the Pepsi Youth Leagues.

The Pepsi deal is thought to include

both a sizeable cash component and 'in kind' support.

"Thanks to Pepsi's support, we will be able to work towards ensuring the continuing success and appropriate level of recognition of our youth competitions which we see as vital to the ongoing future of the code well into the next century," said Mr Gray.

The sponsorship is the result of work from the NSW Federation's new Marketing Manager, Bonnie Merslades.

Well-done to all at NSW, you are setting a fine example to the other states.



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POWER RA(Y)NGER?

He may have officially retired from English professional football, but Republic of Ireland international Ray Houghton could still have the **power in him for one more season.

Parramatta Power is reportedly interested in the 37-year-old former Liverpool dynamo (pic right).

He is due to arrive shortly to have a look at the Power set-up with a view to playing this season with the fledgling club from the West of Sydney.

His last club was English second division side Reading, which incidentally has Aussies Andy Bernal and keeper Stever Mautone on their books.

The attacking midfielder has stated in the Royals' match day program that coaching is something he is interested in.

Perhaps he will end up coaching here after playing, just like another of David Mitchell's veteran UK signings, Carlton supremo Stuart Munro, who signed with Mitchell's Sydney United a few years ago.

THE RAY HOUGHTON STORY ...

Born in Glasgow in 1963, this influential midfielder with 68 Republic of Ireland caps to his name, joined Reading on a two year contract in July 1997 after being released by Crystal Palace.

He began his career at West Ham but made just one appearance before joining Fulham, where he played 129 games and scored 16 goals during a three year spell at Craven Cottage.

Houghton made his international debut while at Oxford United before a £825,000 transfer took him to Liverpool, where he picked up two League Championship medals and two FA Cup winners' medals.

He then spent nearly three years at Aston Villa before making a £300,000 move to Palace, helping the Eagles to promotion to the Premiership in 1996-97.

He featured regularly last season under Reading coach Tommy Burns, but the Madejski Stadium was to be his last ground before his retirement two months ago. He made 33 appearances and scored 10 goals.

Crisis ridden Adelaide Sharks will take their place at the starting line for the 1999/2000 Ericsson Cup after a deal put in place late last week cleared them of debt.

Sharks' creditors voted to accept an offer of \$425,000 over the next six months, with a further \$300,000 expected to be paid within a year.

The extra \$300,000 will come from the trade of



former Sharks' player Stan Lazaridis from English Premier League club West Ham to first division club Birmingham City.

Financial administrator Bruce Mulvaney said Sharks players, who played without pay for a large part of last season, would get all money owed to them and the club would continue in the NSL.

"The creditors accepted the proposal today which is good news for the players and good news for the club," Mulvaney told reporters.

"People are relieved, it's been a long road but the way is now clear for a positive future for the club and for the players to get on with playing their football."

The money was put up by six businessmen who plan to change the name of the club to Southern Stars and change the club colours in a bid to broaden the supporter base.

Club president Theo Parissos said the new owners would meet immediately to appoint a board and the naming of a coach and players would follow.

The most important thing for this club is to move away from the perception that the club is a bastion of the city's Greek community, there is no reason why the can't prosper. If it doesn't change, then the future of this once powerful South Australian club is limited at best.

Our national women's U/21s were beaten in their final group game of the Nordic Cup in Iceland. on Saturday. The reigning champs Norway beat our Baby Matildas 3-1.

Our coach Chris Tanzey was not impressed by the referee. "The referee was appalling, a lot of things were not picked up," he said after. It was however, one of our better performances according to all reports, as we took the game to the Norwegians.

USA and Norway made the final while Australia played Germany in a play-off match for positions seven and eight, with the Germans coming out resounding winner to the tune of 4-0.

**warning, shocking pun.



HAVE YOUR SAY...

To all Victorian soccer fans ...

For years now we have been deprived of soccer by local media Aussie Rules lapdogs and their ignorance of our sport.

They bend over backwards to cover a game irrelevant on the world stage, and which cannot claim allegiance from at least half of Australia's population.

Soccer, the true footy, is growing rapidly everywhere, but the local media's denial of it is tantamount to hypocrisy and arrogance.

We keep waiting for the day that soccer stories will earn equal billing with the sport that has hijacked the term 'football' from us.

Perhaps this will happen when the World Cup arrives down under, but I for one am not prepared to wait that long.

Whilst their sport is littered with drug stories and racism, our sport's image, particularly recently, looks squeaky clean.

Yet how many soccer stories will you see on Channel 7 news tonight?

When will Channel 10 ever put to air positive stories about local or foreign football? And if you think the TV networks are treating the game poorly, what about the local press?

Does The Age newspaper employ a local soccer writer - someone to cover the world's no. 1 sport - I think not. How many letters and email messages must we send in order for these agencies to wake up and see the changes taking place all around them?

Whilst all of this seems like some sort of well-orchestrated conspiracy, we should take heart in some telling recent developments.

The other 'football', a constant barrage of which we face daily, is apparently hurting only itself for that very reason.

Its push for the airwaves is said to be hurting its attendances. It is perhaps inevitable that something had to give.

Some respected Melbourne sports writers are saying that this is evidence that Aussie Rules is in decline. Believe me, it has a long way to fall from its present position, especially when in some circles it is believed its biggest ground, the MCG, is now seen to be far too big for future crowds anticipated.

Soccer on the other hand, whilst appearing as a

fledgling code here, has plenty of room for growth and immense potential, both on TV and at the turnstiles, as long as Soccer Australia gets the formulae right.

Nationwide, its expected average attendances for each NSL round will undoubtedly increase for season 1999/2000.

We do have a long way to go, but we should capitalise on every new development that is conducive to increasing our market share in this country, not to mention in the state of Victoria.

Yet I will not let up in attacking the feeble approaches of local media organisations in covering our sport, and I urge everyone who reads this letter to keep up the pressure on them also.

Mark Fisher,
Melbourne

EDITOR'S NOTE

Once Melbourne has a club that can regularly pull 10,000-20,000 then it will always be difficult to convince the media of soccer's power. It's happening in other cities and we sincerely hope Melbourne happens soon.

According to reports the Herald Sun has been printing daily criticisms of the AFL on all fronts - such as drops in crowds which are perceived to be due to overpricing of tickets (their Grand Final will cost at least \$80 per seat), playing to corporate interests alone, wanting to push TV above the product the attendee receives at the games, and the things to come, such as - get this - not allowing anyone to bring food from home when going to a game at the new Docklands Stadium, or so it is rumoured.

Also discussed was the effect the GST will have on ticket prices.

The AFL is in danger of losing many of its grassroots supporters, including the working class and rural fans, due to the perception it is becoming elitist. Even Mick Molloy slagged the code off on his Channel Nine show, mind you, the network is the Rugby League telecaster, so perhaps there is more to it.

Anyway, keep supporting our clubs in Melbourne and one day it will happen, it won't happen overnight but ...



Inside SOCCER SUBSCRIPTIONS

GET YA HANDS ON ONE!

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WIN SIGNED COPY OF FRANK'S BOOK

Yes, you can win a copy of Frank Farina's book. All you have to do is answer the question below and send in an envelope to the office and we will pull out a lucky reader who will win a copy.

The address to send your envelopes to is:

'Please send me Frank Farina's book' competition. INSIDE SOCCER 1/24 Prince William Drive, Seven Hills, NSW 2147.

Oh, and another thing, the great man has signed the book.

So for your signed copy of Frank Farina's book 'MY WORLD IS ROUND, just answer the following question and put the answer on the back of the envelope.

QUESTION:

Which Serie A club did Frank Farina play for?

FARINA



FRANK FARINA

A personal playing history



BOB'S ON THE BALL!



Bob Franklin is a very funny comedian currently on Channel Nine's *The Mick Molloy Show*. The witty English lad also loves his football, so we thought we'd ask him a few of his football thoughts ...

Bob, your questions on the show to the Man Utd players on their recent tour were brilliant. For those who missed it, what did you ask them?

The questions I asked were as follows:

Teddy Sheringham, what do you think of plans to use a time machine to bring back some of the great players of the 70s?

Ryan Giggs, lycanthropy. Can a man really change into a wolf under a full moon?

Teddy, there have been many comparisons made regarding the 1999 Man Utd side. I recently heard them compared to an 18th century

never seems to have his spell book with him.

If Mick Molloy was a player, who would he be?
Francis Lee.

If you were a coach, and your team was losing badly, what would you do at half time?
Point to something in the sky, shout "Look everybody" and then run away.

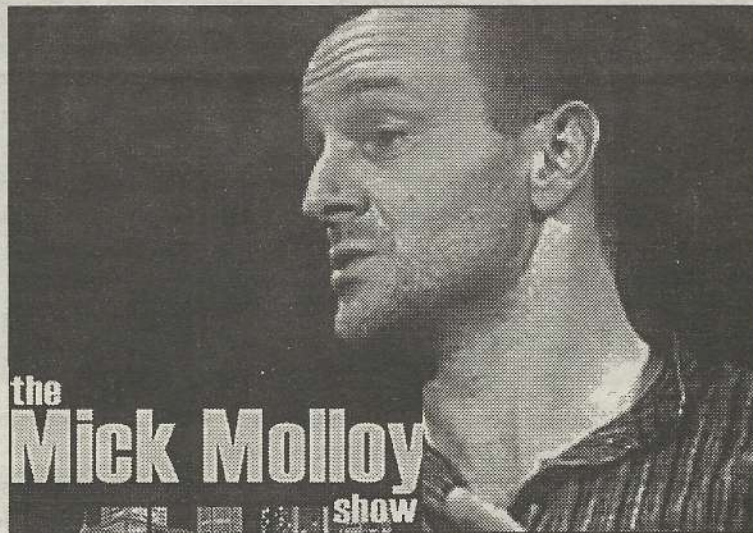
What was the best goal you ever saw?

Ronnie Radford's forty yard shot to bring non-league Hereford Utd level with the mighty Newcastle in the FA Cup in the early seventies.

How would you describe the Man Utd players?

Hairy in some places, yet strangely smooth in others.

What were your impressions of their recent games



agricultural device. Is this way wide of the mark?

Dennis Irwin, what do you say to rumours that Gary Neville has been stealing bodies from graveyards and building some sort of creature from the parts in his garage?

Needless to say, the players were somewhat amused by your line of questioning! So which English football team do you follow?

I started supporting Leeds when I was a kid in the 70s, because they were evil and yet they wore white, thus alerting me to how complicated life is at an early age.

You play for Middle Park in Melbourne. What position do you play and how would you describe yourself as a player?

I'm a midfield wizard who

against the Socceroos?

I missed both games because I was selling fake merchandise outside the ground.

Is there a team in Melbourne you support? What make a good fan?

Yes, the marvellous team of Geoff Jansz and Kerrie-Anne Kennerly. A good fan has great wealth and an inability to discern quality.

What does Australia have to do to qualify for the World Cup?

Pretend to be Germany.

Thanks Bob. You can see Bob Franklin on *The Mick Molloy Show* on Saturday night, 9.30pm on Channel Nine.

And as Bob himself might say, "How delightful!"

INVASION OF THE AUSSIE FOOTBALLERS!

China is about to be awash with Aussie Soccer players. Sydney United are due there this Thursday while Carlton will leave this Saturday.

Unfortunately our China correspondent is stuck on a donkey up the Yangtze river, but we will endeavour to bring to you both clubs' progress.

Carlton will have their two Kiwi internationals, Mark Atkinson and Sean Douglas, in the travelling party. Both have impressed in the surprisingly good showing of New Zealand in the recent Confederations Cup in Mexico.

Before Carlton leaves it will play a friendly tomorrow (Wed August 11) against Fawknar at

Jukes Road, kicking off at 7pm. Carlton's Chinese tour is as follows:

Still in Melbourne and more evidence that soccer scares the living bejeesus out of AFL clubs.

Hawthorn's chairman believes the AFL's decision to abandon Waverley Park and the developing south-eastern population will one day come back to the haunt it, according to one press report.

The report goes on to say that his fear is that soccer, the game the AFL concedes is its biggest threat A (their words, not ours) could take over in the area dominated by Australian rules. "It opens up this whole region of 2.1 million people for soccer," he said.

"I don't think you'll be able to tell for 20 years, but if Australia did very well in soccer in the next 10, it could be quicker. I hope I'm wrong."

Well don't bank on it.

And back in the Harbour City, our media watch boffins reckon that Mark Bosnich's shirt made more for charity at a recent auction than did Tony Lockett's shirt.

So in the Bozza v Plugger stakes, the Ausse star of the Global Game wins out.

Well-done Bozza for raising money for charity. Oh, and you too Plugger.

August 17, Carlton v YunNan FC at KumMin (4:30pm kick-off)
August 19, Carlton v YunNan FC at ChuHong (4:30pm kick-off)
August 21, Carlton v SiChuan QuanXing FC at ChengDu (7:30pm kick-off)
August 25, Carlton v Henan Jianye FC at Zhengzhou (4:30pm kick-off).
Return to Melbourne, August 27.

FANZINES...

Fanzine culture is alive and kicking globally as more and more fans feel the need to have their say in their own way. Webzines, the fanzines' on-line big brother, are also sprouting up worldwide. Offbeat names, grass-roots views and an editorial stance that eschews the corporate ethos, football fanzines have all this, in spades. As part of an ongoing series on Australasian fanzines we kick off with Kevin Christopher, the man behind long-running Aussie fanzine *Studs Up*, and we first asked him what role did he think fanzines play in the coverage of sport in general, and in particular Australian soccer?

In Australian sport generally, I believe fanzines have developed due to the excessive corporatisation of sport, in particular the AFL and the ARL/NRL, although in the case of soccer, fanzines have sprung up due to the lack of professionalism in the sport.

Most British fanzines appeared as a reaction to the Taylor Report and the general chaos that was British soccer in the early-mid 80s.

People just got sick of being treated like animals on a Saturday and morons for the rest of the week.

They had a genuine reason to be angry at the state of the game and the people who ran their clubs, but when you look at the English Premiership today, a lot of fans have never had it so good.

In Australia though, we are still right in the shit and there has, theoretically at least, never been a better time for fanzines.

Studs Up was born in 1994 simply because a small group of fans were fed up with the way the sport was heading. There was the massive player drain, excessive violence on the terraces, patron safety/comfort was being neglected, all the usual reasons for fanzines cropping up.

And of course there was the appalling way the Australian Soccer Supporters Club was handled.

Above all though, fanzines provide a publishing outlet for those articles that would, for one reason or another, never be published in the mainstream press.

What advantages/disadvantages do you think fanzines have over an industry-based publication like *Inside Soccer/Soccer Weekly/Super Soccer*?

There is a detachment that allows for a more balanced viewpoint on important issues. Quite often the financial aspects are removed from an argument and you can just strip things back to the naked

ethics of the issue.

A number of Australian soccer writers of considerable experience have simply become too close to all the major players in the sport, and on a number of occasions this has led to their objectivity being clouded.

With most fanzines, there is no paid advertising so you are under no implied obligations. At the end of the day a fanzine is not in business

primarily to make a profit, therefore there is no need to hide under the covers when one of your 'sponsors' is acting detrimentally to the game's overall welfare.

For example, if Club X is paying \$15,000 a year to advertise in your publication, you are not going to come down to hard on their committee if they stymie a worthy proposal which would have obvious benefits to the league without necessarily being beneficial to Club X.

Finally, there are no space restrictions either, which allows the widest possible variety of views to be put forward.

What makes a good fanzine and why?

Fanzines by definition are fan-based magazines, so to include articles by recognized writers is a bit of a no-no. It helps to have a healthy slab of humour, and a decent dose of sarcasm is usually a positive sign as well.

A good fanzine won't just highlight

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the inadequacies however. It should provide genuine, reasonable alternatives to the status quo.

I think this is where *Studs Up* has been so successful since its inception. Looking back at the early issues it is remarkable how many fans' plans were actually implemented!

The other strength of *Studs Up* is its

willingness to fill statistical voids. There is buggery-all in the way of published statistics on the sport in this country and one of our pet loves is filling those statistical voids. Just the basics, like printing the line-ups for ALL Australian teams, something which nobody else consistently achieves. That's why we were so pleased to finally produce the Beginners Guide to the NSL.

INSIDE SOCCER'S FAVOURITE FANZINE NAMES:

1: BRIAN MOORE'S HEAD LOOKS LIKE THE LONDON PLANETARIUM

2: SEX AND CHOCOLATE AREN'T AS GOOD AS FOOTBALL

3: THREE POINTS AND A HANGOVER

4: THE BADGER'S BOLLOCKS

To think the fans had never had the opportunity to own such a handbook was a bloody disgrace.

Your favourite fanzine and why?

Like everyone I was amazed at the originality of the godfather of them all *When Saturday Comes* which first appeared in the mid-late 1980s. They are still top of the tree for general football analysis, although for individual clubs, particularly in England, the purpose of fanzines has changed somewhat.

My current favourite just has to be *Sitter!*, the Kiwi fanzine. Every time I think Australian soccer is at rock bottom I console myself by sitting down with a few *Sitters!* We thought we had it tough....

How easy, or difficult, is it to start and maintain a fanzine? How much work is involved?

First of all you have to have sufficient

time. It isn't unusual to find yourself devoting 40 hours a week to the job. It is possible to do it in a fraction of the time, but that would be ignoring the countless enquiries that get directed to us.

Plus, you're always out watching soccer as well, talking to fans, it all adds up.

Equally important is motivation. *Studs Up* was first published partly because of the dreadful job the Australian soccer media were doing at that time.

Despite the numerous serious problems the game faced, the mainstream media were unwilling to highlight those deficiencies and pursue the removal of incompetent administrators.

And of course there was the dreadful environment the public was expected to watch NSL soccer in. In some cases it is still dreadful, but those clubs are only interested in their members interests, not the interests of the game generally.

What advice would you give to an aspiring fanzine editor?

Don't be motivated by the thought of a profit! No, seriously, there are times when you just have to tip money in from your own pocket so unless you have an alternative income source it is extremely difficult to cover your costs, let alone advertise and try to expand.

Studs Up is lucky in that over the past five years we have developed an excellent network of contributors from across the country, and at the end of the day, a fanzine lives or dies by its content.



THE CAN - D O MAN

Nick Tana calls it 'street-talk' and it's one way he gauges the prominence of soccer in the public eye. Apparently the 'street-talk' of the Perth cab drivers augers well with almost all of them, when prompted, discussing the vagaries of their favourite team, Perth Glory. Sydney cabbies, however, are a different kettle of fish, with a studied indifference when quizzed on the world game. It seems Nick Tana's 'street-talk meter' says we still have a way to go here in on the eastern seaboard, despite the obvious success of Northern Spirit.

The 'cabbie factor' is not so far-fetched as perhaps you may think. It is common knowledge in Canberra that the polities often ask their drivers what people are saying and feeling on certain issues, but more about politics Australian Soccer style later.

Over in Perth and preparations are beginning for the new season. Bernd Stange is back from holiday and, according to Tana, "we are in a better position than we were this time last year."

The club is poised to plug the gaps left by the departures of defenders Wilkinson (overseas trialling), Circati (back in Italy) and Deans (Carlton), plus the possible leaving of John Markovski, by signing former Portsmouth and Adelaide Sharks centre back Hamilton Thorp.

Plus highly rated NSW Super League defender, Macarthur Rams' Dion Valle (named last Friday night in the Super League Superstars team of 1999) seems destined to be offered terms.

Add to this the exciting Kasey Wehrman, AIS youngster Ivan Ergic and more astute signings by coach Stange in the near future, and the Glory train looks set once more to challenge, in more ways than one, the elite of the Australian game.

Increased cash may also be on the way with a reported million dollars on offer for Glory's big Kiwi defender Danny Hay. However the Chairman is somewhat sceptical of the UK bureaucracy. "The deal is with Leeds subject to the work permit. When? Well you're up against the UK authorities so God knows when, a week, a month," he says.

"There's no question that there has been a depletion of stocks of players in this country," he notes of the exodus of players abroad. "Our ideal number for the first team squad is 22, but we may have to beef that up to cover this year's 17-team competition."

Asked to describe Bernd Stange and Tana doesn't give the conventional answer. "Wholistic!" is his assessment. "He has an aura over and above soccer, he is special. People are attracted to him. The game requires an identity and in Perth we have an identity through Bernd. He has brought another dimension to the game. He is authentic."

He goes on: "We are desperately in need of someone like him for the national coach. He commands respect."

I wonder how many NSL

PERTH GLORY CHAIRMAN NICK TANA HAS PRESIDED OVER A SOCCER MIRACLE IN THE WEST. HIS FORTHRIGHT BUSINESS APPROACH, TOGETHER WITH A WINNING SIDE ON AND OFF THE PARK, HAS SEEN AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPLOSION IN PUBLIC INTEREST. HE SAYS THE TEAM IS NOW SEEN AS A 'MAINSTREAM' SPORTS CLUB. NICK TANA SPOKE WITH INSIDE SOCCER'S AIDAN ORMOND ABOUT HIS IDEAS TO LIFT THE LEAGUE TO THE NEXT LEVEL ...

Chairpersons would say that about their coach?

Going back a few months and the 1999 Ericsson Cup finals was a watershed in terms of attendances (largely due to Spirit and Glory). I wondered whether the club's profile had increased significantly since, or was it there already? "There is no question that it will be more than an incremental increase in profile each year, provided we do everything

build a stadium and there is a tendering process at the moment regarding developing the Convention Centre. One tenderer has a proposal and it includes a soccer ground and it looks high-tech and great.

"Tenderers have been encouraged to make it configured for soccer. In the Financial Review however there was a story this week that the decision on a shortlist of three has been delayed a week. Soon the shortlist will be made. The

what happens. We are in discussion at the moment on this.

"In an ideal world," he says of Glory's future in Australia, "we would be playing in a competition that attracts nationally 15-20,000 average per game with a league that has a mainstream sport's standing. We can't go any further with profile.

"We can tick along incrementally as you say but to make the quantum leaps needed well....



A packed WACA for the Glory Finals Show ... the ground is now a possibility as a future home.

right on and off the field. We are now seen as a mainstream club," is how he explains what he feels is a gradual improvement in the club's stocks since the finals.

"We are behind AFL purely because of where our league is as a league as opposed to the individual clubs," he adds.

There are however interesting developments on the contentious issue of the home ground.

Perth Glory is back at Perth Oval, its base for the last three years, but thereafter it is up in the air. "We are moving on two fronts with regard to the ground. First, the Government as you know is keen to

decision-making process will take up to six months or so, then a tender will be chosen. But, there is no certainty that there will be a soccer ground in the final choice," he notes.

"However, on a different tack, again in the Financial Review, it has been reported that the WACA has made strong overtures about where they are going to be in 3-5 years. They are proposing some radical changes to their ground use.

"The finals appearances by Glory at the WACA was unbelievable. The management, the corporate box holders and caterers were ecstatic with the crowd for soccer and the game, so let's just see

Yet he still maintains a degree of optimism.

"Where will the league be in five years? I believe we will be 50% better. Look, we hear it everywhere we go in Australia when the Glory travels.

"The members are putting the pressure to bear on the traditional clubs and fans want their club to be like Perth Glory.

**Continued
next page ...**

Continued from page seven ..

"I believe," he says firmly, "there is a fundamental requirement for commercial soccer and an absolute mandatory requirement for social soccer. The problem we have is that the game has evolved socially and has not been able to attract commercially."

"So-called ethnic clubs can work under certain circumstances. Of course they can work. If you have a different agenda with the social club and the soccer club, if they are not identical, then it won't work, but yes it can work."

He cites the traditional clubs Marconi and South Melbourne as salient examples of this.

"And some are already making changes. Someone like Ned Coton, new GM at Adelaide City, will make the necessary and radical moves if allowed."

"It's senseless," he laments, "because we have the product. Football can produce million dollar players, like Mark Bosnich - all we need to do is rebadge, repack and refocus our game here."

So if handed the league and allowed carte blanche to do what he thinks is needed Tana maintains we need to grab hold of a strict commercial ethic. "It is no different to what I said to the SPIC committee (Strategic Planning Implementation Committee). If adopted, it will take us down the right road. In essence, there has to be a 'value' placed on what the clubs have in the NSL. You can't just be there for the sake of being there."

"The game has been brought to this level with hard work and sweat. These people have worked in the canteens and done the hack work and have done a damn good job. You can't take that away from them."

"Having said that we don't owe the past, we owe the future. We owe our kids. We need to respect the past but we owe the future."

"We are in a different world now. We are in a marketing world. There have been quantum leaps in technology and the way we approach sports and the marketing of it. The game the way it was does not fit in with this new market."

"To go back to the question, in a perfect world what would I do. It is all prefaced on drawing TV. Having that ability, Soccer Australia should draw a line in the sand and say, in 2-3 years time we will be issuing franchises to ten or 12 organisations with certain criteria attached; no deviation or compromise."

"If you can't meet the criteria you can't play. The central management pool is capitalised to the tune of 5-6 million by franchise fees, then you flog sell it to advertisers and sponsors and TV. You then have a 20-25 million package and those are the numbers for a national and viable competition."

"I am not one who thinks the league should be run privately, I believe it should be run for the benefit of the clubs. I am

vehemently opposed to the league being sold to private entrepreneurs. You can't sell off the league rights."

"I have no problem with clubs themselves being owned by individual investors but not the league. I will argue that the clubs should run the league for their own benefit."

This last comment alludes to the current issue of selling the marketing rights of the NSL. This is something he is vehemently opposed to, although he has no truck with private promoters risking their own money to put on tours (such as Rivkin, IMG and Left Field Solutions).

"I believe the average player contracts will be six figures in the next few years. Before it was averaging 30-50,000. What this will result in is a natural attrition, as the players will gravitate towards the bigger clubs. The smaller clubs will then be saying, 'well is this worth it?', as the process of rationalisation sets in."

Tana is clearly desperate for the languishing East of the country to catch up with the enlightened forces in the West. However Tana reserves his most scathing attacks for the politics inherent in the game, a factor he believes slows the progress of the sport, particularly when he feels radical change is needed.

"History shows that the world has had a number of people who have gone against the normal run of things in their criticisms, that is how change happens for the better. It may be better said that my ideas will hopefully motivate people."

"My only interest is pushing the game to the absolute limit. If anyone can't do it for whatever restrictions then clearly that is not good for the game."

"In Australian Soccer it runs similar to politics. It is all about numbers. I don't play that game; I only play the results game. There is a chasm between the way the game operates and the politics of it."

"The game needs my ideas but the establishment needs to accept such ideas."

Once you've prescribed the medicine are you able to take it? he asks of the national hierarchy. "It's all well and good to come up with the process. Now they are saying 'Nick, it will happen at a slower pace.' That's just slotting in comfort zones so people can keep up rather than changing for the better."

So I don't think we don't need more Nick Tanas, just using my more of my ideas."

I wondered then how can Nick Tana serve the game in the future? "If there is a way I can assist then that is fine and I have indicated that." (Last year he came within a vote or two of becoming a Soccer Australia Commissioner, losing 8-7).

Yet the pushing of new ideas drains even this most energetic administrator. "I also believe that the run-ins I have had in the last six months means that I am not too sure that I would take that route again."

"My views are radical yes, and I am



Glory defender Jamie Harnwell ... looks like he will be joined by defenders Valle and Thorp.



Glory coach Bernd Stange ... Tana says he is "wholistic and authentic". Pic by SportsWest Media

not sure some people want to take this pain for change. But if the opportunity arose...

"Given what I have experienced in the last three years we have a huge problem addressing the forward and progressive thinkers. The game does not foster that. Quite the contrary it has the habit of recycling."

"Like governments they like to recycle the people. I am not being critical of individuals. For the game to go forward we must look at a fresh approach under controlled structures."

So is it just a fact that that some of the national soccer hierarchy have been around for ages? "There is no question of that, you have to bring in younger people, but not from the existing structures and establishments. Their structures are social structures."

"With franchises you will find astute and capable people. If you are talking a social game, they may not be commercially oriented. So changing by bringing in youth from existing structures would not work."

"Force peoples' hand with a set of criteria so they have to operate under a set of guidelines."

With the number-crunching from last year's vote, he could have courted the New Zealanders, but Tana has gone on the public record and said that he does not believe it is a good thing to have Auckland in the league. Tana feels we should be fixing our own backyard first.

"We are relying on NZ carrying us, not the other way around. That is why I think it will fail. Look at the Auckland Warriors in the Rugby League."

"The clubs want what Glory have

done, and they want to hang around 'til it happens but their makeup and structure means it cannot happen for them under their regimes."

"Unless you get change, you will not get the quantum leap forward. But to what extent will you be happy?", he asks.

"If you get an average attendance increase from 4,500 to 5,500, is that an improvement?"

"Yes it is in the context of the league because it is a 25% increase, but is it really an improvement when you look at the benchmarks. The league was down when you take out Spirit and Glory."

Glory and Spirit accounted for about 420,000 of the aggregate of around 1.1 million fans last season. Take these two out of the equation and attendances were disastrous.

I started with a political point and I will finish on one. Nick Tana is the Jeff Kennett of Australian Soccer. A self-confessed "doer" with strong and passionate beliefs, but contemptuous of the political processes and institutionalism that holds back radical, and as he sees it, necessary, change to the game."

I think it was Treasurer Peter Costello who said politics will always get you in the end.

Perhaps. But Perth Glory Chairman Nick Tana has a huge passion for the game and, if given the opportunity, could radically alter the national landscape at an appreciably faster rate than the moribund establishment presently plodding away.

And like Kennett, he has the runs well and truly on the board at state level. I thank him for his time and he replies: "Anything for the cause."

And that's exactly what it is.

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

By Aidan Ormond

Two months ago, Sydney United Chairman Marko Franovic had considerable pride in his team and coach. They had reached the Grand Final, despite chronic financial problems, and were minor premiers. All this for a team written off at the start of the year as no-hopers.

Franovic was quick to praise the coaching ability of then supremo David Mitchell and the players, many of whom



Mile Sterjovski... a powerful signing by Parramatta, and Franovic doesn't like it.

have seen their market value (such as Sterjovski and Burns) significantly increase as a result.

Fast forward two months and things could not be more different. Mitchell is now with new Ericsson Cup side Parramatta Power. So too is virtually the entire first team squad from the Grand Final side.

Franovic is now accusing his former golden boy coach of illegal poaching. The headline in the Sydney tabloids 'Soccer war heads to court' flags a legal challenge by Franovic. He wants compensation because he feels the players were poached.

Parramatta Power's Leagues Club CEO Dennis Fitzgerald has stated to Inside Soccer that the club has acted "honourably and ethically".

Soccer Australia and the Players Association have said they believe the players were free agents and thus nothing illegal has occurred.

But the feisty Franovic is insistent that legal action will occur before the season gets under way.

When asked what evidence he has to back up his claims, Franovic fudges. "David Mitchell had a contract with us for two years, expiring July 31 this year. He took 13 players! The evidence is that after the Grand Final he said he wanted to keep this squad together, and that's what he has done! At the end of the day



Sydney United players after last year's final against Glory, from left to right Mike Santalab, Richard Plesa, Jacob Burns and Vela Kupresak. The first three have signed for Power.

that's what he did."

The Soccer Australia decree gets a similar serve. "They are wrong. We have legal advice that we are right and we are entitled to compensation. All we are saying that compensation has to take place."

"When we played at Marconi against Glory, Power people were talking to our players. Well you don't need to be a genius to work out what they were talking about?"

I wondered why the players chose to stay with David Mitchell rather than with Franovic? (Mile Sterjovski reportedly turned down a \$200,000 per year gig at Edensor Park to remain with Mitchell).

"Mitchell was coach, and he belonged to the players. He wasn't coaching for the club, rather for the players."

As for his current crop of players, and he sees it as all positive for them. "This is the best thing for my current players. If I was them I would be happy, it gives them a chance to play in the NSL."

Franovic's pride has been stung by the prejudice shown by the media to his club.

"We have been bagged by media. We have lost sponsors because of it. Negative media. It would be pointless to

get sponsorship, where you have a media that are all making out how wonderful Power is and putting Sydney United down because of financial trouble."

Asked whether this may be just an excuse and that crowds may be the reason why he can't attract sponsors and he fires back with his answer.

"We are third highest crowd puller in the league. Third highest!"

(According to the Ozsoccer internet site, last year the Pumas were well behind Spirit, Glory and South, positioned in seventh on the crowd ladder for home and away).

Nevertheless, the media jousting is perhaps something Franovic enjoys.

"I like touchy issues, that's how I get excited, by touchy issues."

The fact of the matter is that even if the club does receive compensation, and this seems unlikely, lawyers fees have to be paid and those players will not be back at Sydney United. Sadly, the headlines of court action will also not help the club.

Marko Franovic is a successful businessman who has considerable pride. It seems like this mass exodus is too much for him to take. And he wants reparation.

GARY POWER IS ... 'THE REF WHO BOOKED ME'



Gary Power is Australia's Referee's Director. He is also a referee but now he is shaping the future of the umpires in this country, and he likes what he sees. He even feels Australian officials are some of the best in the world. Last week we caught up with him

So Gary, what does a Referees' Director actually do?

Well my wife tells me it's not a real job, but essentially I look after the national and international panels and the coaching therein, the Ericsson Cup appointments plus I write and develop grass-roots level programs.

Are we producing good quality refs?

We are doing better than most. Most countries don't have a centralised plan like we do. We keep looking for ways of doing things better. Look at Simon Micallef, who at 28 did the semis of WYC 99. FIFA cannot believe how good these guys are at such a young age.

Consistency is what we hear most

when people, and sometimes they are on the losing side, criticize refs. Are our whistle blowers consistent?

At the end of the day refs are human, and are not 100% perfect. I have a problem when decisions are made differently.

Consistency is a wonderful term used by many people. Dealing with exactly the same incident by both teams in exactly the same way I have a problem with.

It's differing ways of handling situations however that the consistency thing comes up. It's horses for courses.

OK, here's the big question. What makes a good ref?

Brains, handling people, thinking quickly, managing a game, creating a balance. And it's not about getting every single decision right also. It's man-management.

The key to man-management is how you sell your decisions and relate to the players.

The recent Man Utd tour. Your thoughts on the two refs in those games and is there a difference in

approach for friendlies?

The two refs concerned came to my place last week, that is Simon Micallef and Mark Shields. They arrived at 6pm and finished in the early hours of the morning.

These two people are good refs who did not have the best of games. I would have wished for them to have had better matches.

To answer your second question, there is however no difference in a friendly to a real game.

What makes anyone want to referee?

For most they enjoy the game and want to do something else to do.

And parents on the sidelines?

Players don't hassle young refs in juniors. Parents usually try to live out their sporting fantasies but yelling and screaming.

What about Gary Power. Are you happy with the way things are?

It seems I am in my own personal timewarp!

I've been doing this for five years and we have made significant progress. Our

top refs make less than seven errors per game, while the Dutch refs made on average 22-27 errors per game!

So that is encouraging for me.

Video cameras for line-ball decisions on the goal-line. How do you feel about the video ref in soccer?

External judge? I don't really care because in our sport it really doesn't apply. League and Cricket have in built stop-pages.

Our game is supposed to be seamless, a miasma of movement. The game always has an element of luck about it anyway.

Does your organisation have much contact with international refs and instructors?

We have in February a visit by Italian Paolo Casarin. The guy who was the intellectual force behind the FIFA decisions of active and passive offside.

He also trains the Italian referees. He is coming to speak to us in all cities of Australia. There's a scoop for you!

CENTRAL COAST STRIKES GOLD AT NSW AWARDS NIGHT

Central Coast's Peter Preston was the big winner at last Friday night's NSW Super League Awards night. The 28-year-old midfielder dynamo was awarded the state's most prestigious award, the Gold Medal for 1999.



After the presentation, held in suburban Bankstown, Preston said it was a huge honour and an indication of the quality of player the Central Coast is now producing. "This is the best feeling to be recognized like this. It's a team game and I could not have done this without my teammates."

"There are so many good young players being produced in the area that this award should give them even extra incentive."

As for NSL ambitions and Preston was frank. "I'd love to play in the Ericsson Cup. It's everyone's dream and I hope I get the chance to prove myself one day."

With Super League players Buonavoglia, Berry and Townsend making the step up, perhaps he too will be given an opportunity.

In other awards, Parramatta Eagles continued their recent successes by winning the Fair Play award, while Daniel Farias of Sutherland won U/21 player of the year and the U/18 award went to Easts' Ali Chanine.

The Super League Golden Boot went to Grant Bard and Matthew Borg while John Crawley won the keeper's gong.

John Turner of Bonnyrigg took out the coach of the year and Super Soccer's Paul Goodwin was given the Journalist of the Year award. Referee of the year was Con Diomis.

The Super League Superstars team saw four clubs dominate:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. John Crawley | Mac Rams |
| 2. Dion Valle | Mac Rams |
| 3. Mark Racker | Bonnyrigg |
| 4. Paul O'Grady | Parramatta |
| 5. Damien Foxe | Blacktown |
| 6. Matthew Lowe | Blacktown |
| 7. Paul Richardson | Bonnyrigg |
| 8. Craig Sharpley | Ryde |
| 9. Grant Bard | Parramatta |
| 10. Matthew Borg | Fairfield |
| 11. Robert Gomez | Bonnyrigg |



Blacktown City's Matthew Lowe ... selected in this year's NSW Superstars team.

The NSW Grand Final winners, Blacktown City Demons, held their awards on the Saturday night at their club in Seven Hills. Player of the year was awarded to Damien Brown.

The U/18 award went to Peter Osborne and the U/21 player of the year Paul Marosevic Clubperson of the year was given to Darryl Schofield (the U/18s manager).

The Blacktown Mayor Charlie Lowles has agreed to give the team a civic reception.

A special guest on the night was old boy Laurie McKinna, now with Parramatta Power, who gave an entertaining speech.

"Last night was a magnificent end to the season. It's been an excellent season, obviously disappointing not being able to do the double, but we have left room for improvement for next year," said club director of senior football Don Regan.

THE NIGHT THE ENGLISH FA VISITED NSW

By Aidan Ormond

The NSW Super League Awards night was an entertaining and at times bizarre affair. Guests at the Bellevue Function Centre were treated to music as they arrived from the Ally McBeal TV soundtrack, which was probably a subtle message that this was going to be an unconventional evening.

Peter Gray, President of NSW Soccer Federation looked the part in a grey and black dinner jacket Hugh Hefner would have been proud of. He happily mingled with the 300 or so guests and later joked on stage with Soccer Australia Chairman Basil Scarsella.

Nigel Tompkins, the special guest speaker for the evening, is the executive manager of Commonwealth Development for the English F.A. He offered some sardonic ideas on player trades

between our two countries, training methods and approach.

The urbane and forthright Tompkins felt a team effort is "a lot of people doing what I say." He also added that there needs to be less "faffing about on the field" and that supporters were "idiots".

Further that, that Australian soccer journalists "didn't give a nagger's fart" about the game.

He also made the generous offer within the Commonwealth Football Partnership Program of \$50,000 for a promising young player's club.

This figure, for a player like a Harry Kewell, he felt was a fair sum of money.

The Soccer Australia table looked ashen-faced at some of his proposals, as did the evening's host Robbie Wheatley, until the realisation dawned on them that this was in fact a corporate comedian.

SOUL STRIKER READY TO STAND UP

By Aidan Ormond

After three years in the Brisbane Strikers first team, forward Wayne Knipe believes this season is the time to stand up and be counted. That's why the livewire striker spent the winter with state league side Bundaberg Waves. And now he feels the experience of playing up the coast has given him the extra focus needed for a successful season in the Ericsson Cup at Suncorp this season.

The four-hour one way journey from Brisbane to Bundaberg was gruelling, but he feels the challenge was worth it for his soccer career.

"Bundy was fantastic," he said cheerily. "Soccer-wise it was good for me, but yes the travelling caused a bit of a problem. My girlfriend Alison hated it!"

"I had time for myself by staying in the routine and training everyday up there and I think that really helped me," said the soon to be 22-year-old.

"It's good just to get away and focus your attentions on your game. And with so much travelling my friends have been very supportive which helped a lot."

Knipe is also forging a parallel career in the music business. He has performed with the label FRS and has written his first song.

"By the end of the day is the first song that I have written. I am performing myself with backing tapes instead of a live band and I am trying to be versatile by singing different types of styles at the moment."

"Versatility? That could be the name of a single! I am arranging things so the soccer and music can complement each other."

Knipe is also doing promotional work for the Strikers.

Speaking of the Strikers, things are now falling into place

with training up and running but it is still up in the air as to who exactly will be in the squad.

"We started last week and we had former Northern Spirit midfielder Adem Poric training with us."

As for Knipe's status with the Strikers, he is now out of contract, but looking to stay on.



Wayne Knipe ... looking to establish himself this year at Brisbane.

"I am off contract so I would like to stay but who knows what will happen."

"We had a great side last year. We just let ourselves down with concentration at inopportune times."

"I am now one of the more experienced players. I want to be a leader not a follower for the new players coming in."

"If we can get a good blend of youth and experience this year I think we will go one better than last season."

As for John Kosmina, and the player believes he has helped his game.

"Kossie's got his way of doing things. He is approachable and I get along well with him."

"I am hoping for a solid week-in-week-out season. I want to stand up and be counted."

And at the end of the day, that's all Knipe wants for this coming season.

DOUNIS' DARKNESS WINNER!



By Ben Cubby

A golden goal from veteran striker Louis Dounis gave St George a 1-0 extra-time victory over Stanmore Hawks in the NSW first division preliminary semi-final on Sunday afternoon.

Both sides adapted well to the windy conditions, and spectators at the compact Rockdale Sports Centre ground witnessed a tough, spirited contest between two of the best teams in the division.

St George found their rhythm early on a wily forward Stevan Janic forced a fingertip save from Hawks keeper Paul Kyprianos in the fifth minute.

Simon Verrender was a driving force in mid-field for the Saints, but strong defensive work from Damien Shepherd and Adrian Lara kept the Stanmore goal intact.

Stanmore began to edge their way into the game, with player-coach Eddie Briscoe looking sharp upfront. A stinging volley from Achilles Markopoulos was well held by St George keeper Trinity Allen in the 28th minute.

Gordon Sutherland saw his low shot tipped just wide by Kyprianou shortly afterwards and St George was unlucky not to go ahead when they force a series of corners before halftime.

Stanmore came out firing after the break though, with Markopoulos and Peter Kypreos wreaking havoc down the flanks. Eddie Briscoe lined-up a free-kick wide on the left in the 59th minute and while everyone was expecting a cross into the box, he sent as shot from an acute angle whistling just across the face of the goal.

Saints top scorer Stefan Janic limped off with a twisted knee in the 67th minute and his replacement Luke Cairney made an immediate impact, drawing a spectacular reaction save from Kyprianou.

Briscoe and Nick Kartambis came close for

PRELIMINARY SEMI-FINAL NSW FIRST DIVISION FINALS

St George 1 (Dounis)
Stanmore Hawks 0
(Golden Goal)

Stanmore in the dying minutes, but there was no way through a very tight St George backline, which was well marshalled by player/coach Paul Carter.

Deep into injury time, an Alex Araujo shot was cleared off the line by the Stanmore defence. The loose ball fell to Gordon Sutherland, who sent his shot hurtling over the bar and into the mangrove swamps behind the goal.

With both sides locked at nil all after the ninety minutes, match officials controversially elected to play only two five minute periods of extra time due to poor light. Dounis averted the need to stage a penalty shootout in near darkness when he ran onto a through ball from Araujo and coolly chipped Kyprianou for the winner.

In the elimination semi-final at Lynwood Park Penrith Panthers defeated Illawarra Lions 3-1. Penrith will now take on Stanmore, while St George will tackle minor premier Manly Warringah, as the race for the first division title heats up.

St George: Allen, Carter, Verrender, Sutherland, Janic (Cairney 67), Dounis, Santarossa, Price, Carle, Araujo, Brennan.

Stanmore: Kyprianou, Lara, Bolianitis, Shepherd, Markopoulos, Kypreos, Costanti (Morales 13), Paradiso, Briscoe, Kambounias, Kartambis.

HE'S BAACK!

The big talking point on the weekend was the return of Jonesy. Yes, that's right, John Markovski is close to rejoining Carlton after leaving Perth Glory in the off-season. He is due today (Tuesday).

Meanwhile, in the latest friendly Carlton defeated state league side Frankston Strikers 5-2 with midfielder Andrew 'Stabber' Marth scoring a hat-trick (two being penalties), reports Sally Orpin.

Carlton played quite well, with the other scorers being Izi Erdogan and Alex Moreira with a header.

Tricarico had a goal disallowed as the side starts to gel. Carlton generally dominated, but there are still a few defensive kinks to be ironed out.

Coach Stuart Munro was in Sydney and missed the win.

Tomorrow night there is another friendly before the side leaves for China.

Another signing expected to be announced is Stuart Slater, ex-West Ham and Celtic. He is a left winger in his early thirties.

Carlton's new Scottish striker, Mike Conroy, is expected to make his Carlton debut this Wednesday against Fawkner.

Conroy, signed from



John Markovski is back with the blues

English Second Division outfit, Blackpool, brings to Carlton bags of experience after a club career that has also included Coventry, Fulham, Chester, St. Mirren and Clydebank.

Now 30 and at over 180 cm, Conroy is expected to lead the Blues offensive line for the coming Ericsson Cup season.

CARLTON STARTING
LINE-UP:

Anastasiadis, Della Rocca, McPherson, Marth, Terminello, Lapsanky, Grbac, Martin, Packer, Tricarico, Moreira, Thompson,

Subs: Pongho, Motsiopoulos, Erdogan.

*Sally Orpin appears courtesy of Carlton fanzine *My Blue Heaven*.



'Big Slim' Dave McPherson meets a Carlton fan before the weekend game.

NEXT WEEK ...

NEW CARLTON COACH

STUART MUNRO ON THE NEW AND

IMPROVED CARLTON. NOW BETTER, FASTER AND CLEANER

GIVING FANS REAL VALUE FOR MONEY! ALL IN NEXT WEEK'S INSIDE SOCCER.



NSW SUPER LEAGUE

NSW STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

DIVISION ONE:**Preliminary Semi Final:**

FIRST GRADE: St George 1 bt Stanmore Hawks 0.

UNDER 21: St George 3 bt Penrith Panthers 0.

UNDER 18: Penrith Panthers 1 bt Moorebank Sports 0.

Elimination Semi Final:

FIRST GRADE: Penrith Panthers 3 (G Tehliwec 43m A Picken 60m D Hinton 85m) bt Illawarra Lions 1 (N Stepovski 38m).

UNDER 21: AC United 2 bt Moorebank Sports 1.

UNDER 18: Stanmore Hawks 1 bt Manly Warringah 0.

DIVISION TWO:

FIRST GRADE: Hurstville ZSC 1 drew University of NSW 1, Greystanes 0 drew Arncliffe Scots 0, Hajduk Wanderers 2 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Sydney District 2 drew Mt Druitt Town 2, Hills United 4 bt Belmore Hercules 1, Fraser Park 4 bt Sydney University 2.

UNDER 21: Hurstville ZSC 6 University of NSW 1, Greystanes 10 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Hajduk Wanderers 3 bt Mt Pritchard 2, Mt Druitt Town 7 bt Sydney District 0, Hills United 5 bt Belmore Hercules 0, Sydney University 2 drew Fraser Park 2.

UNDER 18: Hurstville ZSC 2 bt University of NSW 1, Greystanes 4 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Hajduk Wanderers 1 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Mt Druitt Town 16 bt Sydney District 0, Hills United vs Belmore Hercules postponed, Fraser Park 2 bt Sydney University 0.

DIVISION THREE:

FIRST GRADE: The Wanderers 5 bt White City 1, Camden Tigers 2 bt Western Sydney Lions 1, Hakoah 2 bt Parramatta City 1, Trasandinos 2 bt Colo Colo 0, Gladesville United 2 bt Liverpool City 1, Prospect United 4 bt Maroubra United 2.

SECOND GRADE: The Wanderers 4 bt White City 1, Camden Tigers 1 bt Western Sydney Lions 0, Hakoah 3 bt Parramatta City 1, Trasandinos 6 bt Colo Colo 5, Gladesville United 5 bt Liverpool City 2, Maroubra United 2 bt Prospect United 1.

DIVISION FOUR:

FIRST GRADE: Holy Cross Ryde 3 bt Nepean District 1, Sydney Crescent Star 2 drew CSI Schofields 2, Prairiewood United 3 bt White Valley 0, Springwood 1 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Eastern Creek Pioneers 4 bt United Eagles 1, United Eagles 5 bt White Valley 0, Nepean District 2 bt CSI Schofields 0, Granville Greenisland 3 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Granville Greenisland 2 bt Auburn Star 0, Balmain 2 bt Marrickville 0.

SECOND GRADE: Holy Cross Ryde 1 bt Nepean District 0, Balmain 4 bt Marrickville 3, CSI Schofields 4 bt Sydney Crescent Star 2, Prairiewood United 4 bt White Valley 1, Hawkesbury City 2 bt Springwood 1, United Eagles 3 bt Eastern Creek Pioneers 2, United Eagles 3 bt White Valley 0, Nepean District 4 bt CSI Schofields 2, Hawkesbury City 3 bt Granville Greenisland 0, Auburn Star 3 bt Granville Greenisland 2.

DIVISION FIVE:

FIRST GRADE: UTS 3 bt Sydney United Kings 0, Lithgow Workmen 2 drew Bossy 2, Sporting SCC 5 bt Sydney TUSC 2,

Homenetmen vs. Kellyville Kolts p/p, AVA United 9 bt Macquarie Sports 1, Kosciusko 6 bt Liverpool Olympic 0, Kellyville Kolts 4 bt AVA United 0.

SECOND GRADE: Sydney United Kings 1 drew UTS 1, Bossy 3 bt Lithgow Workmen 1, Sporting SCC 5 bt Sydney TUSC 1, Kellyville Kolts 7 bt Homenetmen 1, AVA United 7 bt Macquarie Sports 2, Kosciusko 3 bt Liverpool Olympic 2, Kellyville Kolts 2 drew AVA United 2.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE:

FIRST GRADE: Marconi Fairfield 9 bt Central Coast 0, NNSW ITC/Academy 2 bt UWS Macarthur Rams 0, Gladesville Ravens 4 bt Sydney United 1, NNSW ITC/Academy 3 bt Nepean Panthers 0.

UNDER 21: Marconi Fairfield 5 bt Central Coast 0, NNSW ITC/Academy 5 bt UWS Macarthur Rams 0, Sydney United 1 drew Gladesville Ravens 1, NNSW ITC/Academy 6 bt Nepean Panthers 0.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE:

FIRST GRADE: St George 3 bt Bankstown Association 0, Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 1 drew Eastern Suburbs 1, Manly Warringah 9 bt Roselands 1.

UNDER 19: Eastern Suburbs 5 bt Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 2, Roselands 2 bt Manly Warringah 0, St George 3 bt Bankstown Association 0.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE:

UNDER 13: Leichhardt Tigers 1 bt Central Coast 0, Leichhardt Tigers 1 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Manly Warringah 1 drew Gladesville Hornsby 1, Blacktown City 3 bt Parramatta Eagles 1, Sydney Olympic 3 bt Sydney United 1, Southern Branch 4 bt Macarthur Rams 1, Southern Districts 3 bt Central Coast 0, Wollongong Wolves 2 bt Newcastle Breakers 0, Marconi Fairfield 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 1.

UNDER 14: Leichhardt Tigers 5 bt Central Coast 0, Leichhardt Tigers 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 2, Gladesville Hornsby 2 bt Manly Warringah 1, Parramatta Eagles 1 drew Blacktown City 1, Sydney Olympic 6 bt Sydney United 0, Macarthur Rams 1 drew Southern Branch 1, Southern Districts 4 bt Central Coast 0, Newcastle Breakers 3 bt Wollongong Wolves 1, Marconi Fairfield 8 bt Eastern Suburbs 1.

UNDER 15: Central Coast 1 drew Leichhardt Tigers 1, Leichhardt Tigers 1 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Gladesville Hornsby 4 bt Manly Warringah 0, Parramatta Eagles 1 bt Blacktown City 0, Sydney United 3 bt Sydney Olympic 2, Southern Branch 2 bt Macarthur Rams 1, Central Coast 3 bt Southern Districts 2, Newcastle Breakers 4 bt Wollongong Wolves 2, Marconi Fairfield 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 0.

UNDER 16: Central Coast 2 drew Leichhardt Tigers 2, Leichhardt Tigers 5 bt Sutherland Sharks 2, Gladesville Hornsby 3 bt Manly Warringah 0, Parramatta Eagles 1 bt Blacktown City 0, Sydney Olympic 3 bt Sydney United 2, Macarthur Rams 2 bt Southern Branch 1, Southern Districts 3 bt Central Coast 0, Wollongong Wolves 0 drew Newcastle Breakers 0, Eastern Suburbs 2 drew Marconi Fairfield 2.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE:

UNDER 13: Leichhardt Tigers 1 bt Central Coast 0, Leichhardt Tigers 1 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Manly Warringah 1

drew Gladesville Hornsby 1, Blacktown City 3 bt Parramatta Eagles 1, Sydney Olympic 3 bt Sydney United 1, Southern Branch 4 bt Macarthur Rams 1, Southern Districts 3 bt Central Coast 0, Wollongong Wolves 2 bt Newcastle Breakers 0, Marconi Fairfield 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 1.

UNDER 14: Leichhardt Tigers 5 bt Central Coast 0, Leichhardt Tigers 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 2, Gladesville Hornsby 4 bt Manly Warringah 0, Parramatta Eagles 1 bt Blacktown City 0, Sydney United 3 bt Sydney Olympic 2, Southern Branch 2 bt Macarthur Rams 1, Central Coast 3 bt Southern Districts 2, Newcastle Breakers 4 bt Wollongong Wolves 2, Marconi Fairfield 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 0.

UNDER 15: Central Coast 2 drew Leichhardt Tigers 2, Leichhardt Tigers 5 bt Sutherland Sharks 2, Gladesville Hornsby 3 bt Manly Warringah 0, Parramatta Eagles 1 bt Blacktown City 0, Sydney Olympic 3 bt Sydney United 2, Macarthur Rams 2 bt Southern Branch 1, Southern Districts 3 bt Central Coast 0, Wollongong Wolves 0 drew Newcastle Breakers 0, Eastern Suburbs 2 drew Marconi Fairfield 2.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE:

UNDER 13: Ryde City 2 bt Canterbury Association 1, Bankstown Association 2 bt AC United 0, Penrith Panthers 2 bt Canterbury M'Ville 1, Bankstown Association 2 bt Rockdale City 0, Ryde City 5 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, St George 1 drew AC United 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 drew Blacktown Association 1, Stanmore Hawks 2 bt Canterbury Association 0, Illawarra Lions 2 bt Hills United 0, Penrith Panthers 2 bt St George 0.

UNDER 14: Canterbury Association 1 bt Ryde City 0, AC United 3 bt Bankstown Association 1, Penrith Panthers 3 bt Canterbury M'Ville 0, Rockdale City 2 bt Bankstown Association 1, Ryde City 3 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, St George 2 bt AC United 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 6 bt Blacktown Association 1, Stanmore Hawks 4 bt Canterbury Association 1, Hills United 5 bt Illawarra Lions 2, St George 0 drew Penrith Panthers 0.

UNDER 15: Penrith Panthers 1 bt St George 0, Ryde City 1 bt Canterbury Association 0, Bankstown Association 1 bt AC United 0, Penrith Panthers 4 bt Canterbury M'Ville 0, Bankstown Association 2 bt Rockdale City 0, Fairfield Bulls 0 drew Ryde City 0, St George 1 bt AC United 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 bt Blacktown Association 0, Canterbury Association 4 bt Stanmore Hawks 0, Hills United 2 bt Illawarra Lions 1.

UNDER 16: Canterbury Association 4 bt Ryde City 1, St George 1 drew Penrith Panthers 1, Bankstown Association 4 bt AC United 1, Penrith Panthers 3 bt Canterbury M'Ville 1, Bankstown

Association 1 bt Rockdale City 0, Fairfield Bulls 1 bt Ryde City 0, St George 1 bt AC United 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 drew Blacktown Association 0, Canterbury Association 3 bt Stanmore Hawks 1, Hills United 2 bt Illawarra Lions 0.

DIVISION TWO:

UNDER 13: Nepean Association 7 bt CSI Schofields 0, Macquarie Sports 0 drew Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0, Granville Association 1 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, Mt Pritchard 1 drew Mt Druitt Town 1, Camden Tigers 2 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hawkesbury City 2 bt Parramatta City 0, Mt Pritchard 1 bt Camden Tigers 0.

UNDER 14:

Nepean Association 1 bt CSI Schofields 1, Macquarie Sports 3 bt Ku-Ring-Gai Association 2, Granville Association 5 bt Hajduk Wanderers 1, Mt Druitt Town 1 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Camden Tigers 3 bt Moorebank Sports 1, Hawkesbury City 2 bt Parramatta City 0, Mt Pritchard 2 bt Camden Tigers 1.

UNDER 15: Nepean Association 7 bt CSI Schofields 0, Macquarie Sports 2 bt Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1, Granville Association 1 drew Hajduk Wanderers 1, Mt Druitt Town 1 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Camden Tigers 2 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Parramatta City 3 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Mt Pritchard 2 bt Camden Tigers 1.

UNDER 16: Nepean Association 2 bt CSI Schofields 0, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 2 bt Macquarie Sports 1, Granville Association 2 bt Hajduk Wanderers 1, Mt Druitt Town 4 bt Mt Pritchard 1, Camden Tigers 1 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Parramatta City 2 bt Hawkesbury City 1, Mt Pritchard 3 bt Camden Tigers 2.

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE:

UNDER 11: Sydney United 3 bt St George 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 bt Eastern Suburbs 2, Parramatta Eagles 0 drew Marconi Fairfield 0, St George 9 bt Parramatta City 0, Ryde City 1 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Leichhardt Tigers 1 bt Sydney United 0.

UNDER 12: Sydney United 2 bt St George 1, Parramatta Eagles 1 drew Marconi Fairfield 1, St George 2 drew Parramatta City 2, Macarthur Rams 4 bt Ryde City 0, Sydney United 3 bt Leichhardt Tigers 0.

DIVISION TWO:

UNDER 11: Stanmore Hawks 7 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hills United 2 bt CSI Schofields 0, Hajduk Wanderers 2 bt Mt Druitt Town 1, CSI Schofields 1 drew AC United 1, Stanmore Hawks 4 bt Mt Pritchard 1, Illawarra Lions 4 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, Hurstville City 2 bt Moorebank Sports 1, Penrith Panthers 3 bt CSI Schofields 0, AC United 1 bt Stanmore Hawks 0, Hajduk Wanderers 1 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Hills United 3 bt Moorebank Sports 1, Hurstville City 3 bt Mt Druitt Town 0, Macquarie Sports 2 bt Hawkesbury City 0.

UNDER 12: Stanmore Hawks 2 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hills United 1 drew CSI Schofields 1, Mt Druitt Town 2 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, CSI Schofields 1 drew AC United 1, Stanmore Hawks 6 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Illawarra Lions 6 bt Hajduk Wanderers

SOCCER CANBERRA

Olympic on the Move By Dylan Durie

Canberra Olympic kept up their push for a top four finish in the ACT Premier League with a dominant 2-0 victory over Belconnen United at Majura Oval.

Olympic should've wrapped up the game before the break but were forced to wait for goals from Pino Seminara and Robert Grande in the second half to take the points.

Despite terrible conditions with heavy rain throughout, the game started off at a fast pace with both sides playing attacking soccer but neither able to take control.

Clear chances were difficult to conjure with the first falling to Belconnen striker Marko Perinovic in the 15th minute after good lead-up work by Luke Larfield and Craig Unwin, but a good save by Olympic 'keeper Angelo Konstantinou kept the scores level.

From the half-hour mark Olympic began to completely dominate the play and only sheer luck and some stout defending kept Belconnen in the hunt.

In the 32nd minute Elia Salloum, who had a very strong game down the right flank, cut infield and unleashed a 25 metre shot which cannoned back off the corner of the goal, then just a minute later he hit the cross-bar with a scorching shot from an almost identical position.

Salloum then won a penalty for his side with a storming run into the box that was checked by Tim Francis, but Takis Arvanitis squandered the chance with a tame shot into the grateful arms of Belconnen 'keeper Rade Kosanovic.

Olympic's first goal then came in the seventh minute of the second half with a sweeping move downfield culminating in a clever through pass from Grande to Seminara who beat Kosanovic with a low shot from a tight angle.

Olympic should've had a second goal immediately when Geoff Howarth robbed a defender straight from the kick-off and found Seminara open in front of goal but his shot was badly missed.

The points were sealed for Olympic midway through the half when the Belconnen defence failed to clear a long kick from Konstantinou, allowing Howarth to latch onto the ball and play Grande through on goal who finished with aplomb from 15 metres.

Belconnen seemed to lose composure after this and only

poor finishing by Olympic prevented the scoreline from becoming embarrassing with Howarth in particular missing two easy chances.

Olympic coach Baz Giampaolo was pleased with the win, despite being disappointed with his team's failure to capitalise on their first half dominance.

Juventus Toppled By Nick Guoth

In a game that was moved from Greenway Oval to Jamison Oval, Gungahlin Juventus didn't utilize home-field advantage when the Burns Club won 4-3.

Many a game has been described as one of two halves. This one was no different. In the first stanza it was open play with 6 goals scored, whilst in the second we saw strong defences, midfield battles and only a solitary winner.

Juventus opened strongly in the first ten minutes scoring two quick goals and it looked like it was going to be a long day for the young Burns players.

Aidan Griffiths made a good run down the left and when given the ball sent in a cross to Frank Baresi. He turned a few players and then sent a rocket into the top right corner.

The wet conditions provided the second on a plate for George Cattanaach. Burns were under some pressure on their left and a pass back to the sweeper John Verdon was too slippery for him to get a touch. Cattanaach ran onto the loose ball and put away the one-on-one with ease.

But Burns didn't drop their heads. Within a 7 minute period they had tied the game up. Just after the quarter hour mark a long cross was headed towards goal by Scott Hayes. Dennis Langone in goals couldn't handle the powerful header and it fell to Brett McRitchie who took two goes to slot the ball home.

Then not too long after this Peter Thompson headed back a Juventus clearance to McRitchie. He slipped past a defender and put through Daniel Park on the right to put away the first of his hat-trick on the day.

Ten minutes before the break and Burns took the lead. Park had the ball in the midfield. He sent it wide right to Karl Varley who's cross was met by the rather unmarked Park on the edge of the six yard box. Park only needed to deflect the ball to beat Langone.

But they could not hold out until the break. Utah Nirvana provided the groundwork for the equaliser. He strode into the box

who was brought down for a penalty. Craig Rankine put away the kick to end proceedings for an exciting half of soccer.

Whether it was the conditions, the ball or the fact that both teams had to hear from their coaches at the break, the second half was totally different to the first.

The game became stalemated with both sides reduced to long ineffective shots at goal. There were rare forays at goal, but the defences were able to hold out. It looked like the type of game where one goal by either team was going to be enough.

And that it was with only five minutes left. After a low cross from the left beat everyone near the goal, it was cleared for a corner. The following kick saw the ball implant itself in the six yard box of Juventus.

Boots and mud flew everywhere before Park scored the winner and finished off his hat-trick.

The goal had its good and bad points for Burns. Whilst they took the lead for good, one of their star players, Gardiner Murray was carried off with a twisted ankle. Still the youngsters held out for a memorable win.

Burns coach Steve Bryant said "the young kids did well to come back. If only we can stop making silly mistakes. It will all come with time." Bryant was pleased with the result and the way his team is progressing. "We're now starting to match it with the better teams", Bryant said.

Students Fight Back By Nick Guoth

At the University grounds, the University of Canberra fought back valiantly, but the 3 goal advantage they had given their opponents was too surmountable. The game finished 3-2 to Monaro.

"We shot ourselves in the foot. You just can't give teams a 3 goal start", said Uni coach Rod Lynes.

Monaro racked up three goals in the first half and Uni were on the back foot from then on trying to rally. But Monaro were also at fault for not converting a number of their chances.

To commence proceedings, Joe Campagna moved down the left hand side. He played a 1-2 with Michael Musitano before scoring in the left hand corner.

Then, the bane of Uni's campaign struck again. A corner kick wasn't contested well enough and Jimmy Baxter rose high enough to head home.

Good lead up work from John Rakic and Lazar Simeonov provided Musitano with a chance he relished giving Chris Freeman in goals no chance.

With a few minutes left in the half, a controversial free-kick was awarded to the students. Whilst the Monaro players were arguing with the referee, Alan Rankine took the kick quickly. It went to Ross Docherty who sent a sweet left foot volley past young Rob Macleod.

The second half produced a bucketful of chances, but it was the students who were able to convert. A challenge saw the ball fall to Rankine and his first time shot was fired into the back of the net.

Monaro coach Andrew Monterosso wasn't too pleased with his team's play, even with the result. "We are not finishing our chances and our midfield didn't work as hard as they should have."

Lynes was reasonably pleased with his young chargers with Docherty, Paul Panebianco and Freeman having good games.

Suns and Weston Draw By Nick Guoth

Woden Park was the setting for the top team, Capital City Suns, to play Weston Creek Royals in what was a Top 4 clash. A 2-2 draw was how it finished and the result kept Suns on top of the league.

Weston came out hard and dominated the early play. They were rewarded for their efforts when the Lazzari brothers teamed up to put their team ahead.

A corner kick from Martin fell to Steve who sent his half-volley home.

Not long afterwards Weston could have scored a second when the ball hit the crossbar, and when Hami Adhami missed a sitter, they were punished.

Immediately the ball went up the other end and the counter attack paid dividends with Pat Phommaseisy finishing off.

Only 5 minutes after the break, Weston restored their lead. Justin Webb manouvered himself into the box and sent a cracking volley past the keeper.

A little way into the half, Suns were able to equalise again. This time Tony Lemezina made his way into the box, but was impeded by Adrian Parragalli and a penalty was the result. Lemezina put away the spot kick to regain the goalscoring lead from Steve Lazzari.

With only a half-minute to go, last week's hero Yuki Onda could have stolen the points for Suns. His chance was from only a few feet out, but from the bad angle he could only find the side netting.

Deakin in Scrappy Win By Nick Guoth

At Riverside Stadium Canberra Deakin did not play well, but were still good enough to defeat the bottom side, Queanbeyan City Lions, by 3-0.

"It was a shocking day for everyone", said Deakin coach Bernie Lustica. The conditions were appalling with players sliding everywhere.

Anthony Barac scored the first when a long shot was spilled by the goalkeeper and that was the only score of the first half.

Into the second half a corner kick was finished off by a good Vince Bodo header. Then Joe Skrtic received the ball on the edge of the box, beat a defender and planted it into the top of the net.

ACT Women's Soccer By Anya Whitelaw

In a game that was touted as a grand final preview, the ACT Academy of Sport and Belconnen United played out a 0-0 draw at Calwell on Sunday.

The conditions were poor, a cold wind and driving rain hampering many players as they struggled to keep their feet in the wet.

ACTAS applied the early pressure as Jill Crocker worked the right hand flank, but their best chance came 15 minutes in. Katrina Staniforth provided the cross which came off the side of Claire Madden's boot over the cross bar.

Not long after Belconnen keeper, Bronwyn Calver was forced to make a full body save to prevent Amanda Riley from putting ACTAS ahead.

Staniforth proved the catalyst for most of her sides attack, five minutes out from half time another of her crosses finding Butler's head, the ball pushed just wide of the left post.

Belconnen came out hard after the break, pressuring ACTAS keeper Amy Beattie who lost her footing on several kicks and failed to sufficiently clear the ball.

Riley had what was probably the best chance of the game eight minutes in running on to a ball well worked out of defence by Annie Kumz and Staniforth. Calver was forced to make her second save from point blank range to keep the scores level.

The conditions started to play more of a role as the game continued, Belconnen losing Nubia Lopez and Dior Foxhill to injuries caused by the wet. Despite this set back Belconnen looked the most dangerous side in the final 10 minutes.

Karen Heath was unlucky not to score for Belconnen when her header rebounded off the crossbar.

Premier League Division 1:

	1st	U23	U19
University of Canberra v Monaro	2-3	2-2	2-0
Weston Creek Royals v Capital City Suns	2-2	2-1	2-2
Canberra Olympic v Belconnen United	2-0	1-2	1-11
Burns Club v Gungahlin Juventus	4-3	1-1	1-3
Queanbeyan City v Canberra Deakin	0-3	1-20	1-5

Premier League Division 2:

1st Grade: ADFA 1 Belwest Foxes 7, ANU 1 Cooma 0, O'Connor Knights 3 Tuggeranong 2
Res Grade: ADFA 1 Belwest Foxes 3, ANU 7 Cooma 1, O'Connor Knights

Premier League Table:

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pts
Capital City Suns	15	10	2	3	2	46	20	34
Monaro	15	9	3	3	3	45	21	33
Belconnen United	15	9	2	4	2	41	16	31
Weston Creek Royals	15	7	5	3	5	33	21	31
Canberra Olympic	15	9	2	4	1	32	15	30
Canberra Deakin	15	9	2	4	1	32	18	30
Gungahlin Juventus	15	6	1	8	1	25	31	20
Uni of Canberra	15	3	1	11	1	24	43	11
Burns Club	15	3	0	12	0	14	56	9
Queanbeyan City Lions	15	1	0	14	0	20	71	3

Division 1- Next Round:

Sunday August 15th - 2pm
Capital City Suns v Canberra Olympic @ O'Connor Oval
Gungahlin Juventus v Weston Creek Royals @ Jamison Oval
Canberra Deakin v Monaro @ Deakin Oval
Belconnen United v Uni of Canberra @ Hawker Oval
Queanbeyan City v Burns Club @ Riverside

VICTORIA STATE LEAGUE

Green Gully Cavaliers overcame a two goal deficit to snatch a valuable point with a 3-3 draw at Altona Magic on Sunday afternoon to remain in pole position going into the final round of the Premier League.

The Cavs have a one point advantage over Port Melbourne and a home win over St Albans next week will be sufficient to give Green Gully the championship. The Sharks remain in the hunt courtesy of a comfortable 3-0 home win over South Dandenong, sending Souths down to Division One in the process.

Only one relegation place remains in doubt now, following Springvale White Eagles' stirring win over the free-scoring Bentleigh at the Serbian Sports Centre. A sublime piece of individual skill from Jim Gacovski twenty minutes from time was enough to settle a dour struggle in windy conditions.

Receiving a ball with Theo Constantinou in close attention, he managed to cleverly lob the ball past his opponent and make himself enough room on the edge of the 18 yard box to deliver a thunderous shot which was simply too-good for Bentleigh 'keeper George Tsianakas.

Springvale should have led at half time but man-of-the-match Eric Styczen took too long to shoot at an open goal, while Bentleigh's recent run of scoring was stifled by the gritty defence of Eagles defenders Stefan Oter and Dejan Mlinar.

Bentleigh's cause wasn't helped when Gerry McDonagh was forced to remain in the changerooms at half time thanks to a recurring quad muscle problem, but despite the efforts of Jim Kotsovolos, Predrag Mladenovic and Theo Constantinou, the Greens just didn't click as they have over the past couple of months.

The grandstand finale was marred when the goalscorer and Bentleigh's Tom Karapatsos were both sent off five minutes from time for fighting.

White Eagles skipper Zlatko Mihaljovic, already under suspension, was also sent from the bench by referee Robert Caminiti for involving himself in the ensuing melee.

The loss drops Bentleigh to fifth place, after Fawkner dumped the demoralised Sunshine Georgies 6-1 at Chaplin Reserve. The Georgies had pushed leaders Green Gully all the way in the big derby last Monday night but against Fawkner it was business as usual with Martin Collins and Santo Emmanuele both notching a brace in the rout.

Vid Horvat's St Albans made it six wins from their last eight starts when they triumphed over Melbourne Raiders 3-1, with Harry Karl once again finding the net. The Saints now remain the only team standing in the way of Green Gully, while Port Melbourne travel to Bulleen next Sunday where a point will be enough to win the title should St Albans manage to defeat Green Gully.

Things are a little less clear at the bottom where much depends on the outcome of the Westvale v Altona East clash on Monday night.

Meanwhile in Division One, Heidelberg defeated leaders Oakleigh to claim top spot with a 2-1 win at Jack Edwards Reserve last Friday night.

In a match notable for a number of stoppages due to smoke flares, a bumper crowd of almost 1500 watched a high quality contest which bodes well for both teams' aspirations of Premier League soccer next season.

Victorian Premier League Round-up - Round 25

Played Sunday August 8

Port Melbourne Sharks	3 (Vargas, Latinopoulos, Kakos)
South Dandenong	0
St Albans Saints	3 (Raspudic, Karl, Sianidis)
Melbourne Raiders	1 (Jolevski)
Altona Magic	3 (Petrevski, Trifunov, Sapazovski)
Green Gully	3 (Mangos, Svigos 2)
Sunshine Georgies	1 (Tambouras)
Fawkner	6 (Collins (2), Emmanuele (2), Psarros, Di Sauro)
Springvale White Eagles	1 (Gacovski)
Bentleigh Greens	0

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Green Gully	25	15	8	2	53	24	53
Port Melbourne	25	16	4	5	57	27	52
Preston Lions	24	14	2	8	45	34	44
Fawkner	25	13	4	8	45	32	43
Bentleigh	25	12	6	7	61	31	42
St Albans	25	11	3	11	43	36	36
Bulleen	24	9	7	8	35	31	34
Melb Raiders	25	9	6	10	34	44	33
Altona Magic	25	8	7	10	35	45	31
Springvale W E	25	8	5	12	36	39	29
Altona East	24	7	6	11	26	36	27
Sth Dandenong	25	6	6	13	41	60	24
Westvale	24	4	7	13	30	64	19
Sunshine	25	4	3	18	26	64	15

Playing Monday:

Westvale v Altona East
Bulleen Inter Kings v Preston Lions

ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE

In Round 18 of the Illawarra Credit Union Premier League the results left the standings unchanged with the top two teams, Northern United and Port Kembla, recording easy victories over their mid table opponents.

The leaders, Northern United, scored an easy 2-0 victory over eight placed Lysaghts while the team running second, Port Kembla, defeated Wollongong Olympic by the same scoreline.

In the only upset of the round lowly placed, second from bottom in fact, Woonona held top four hopefuls Kemblawarra to a high scoring 3-3 draw. The draw has dented Kemblawarra's aspirations for a top four spot as their main rival for the fourth position, Coniston were successful in their round 18 clash over White Eagles to the tune of 2-0.

These results put Kemblawarra two points behind Coniston in the race for the fourth spot.

In the battle of the bottom teams Cringila Lions came out on top of last placed Fernhill by one goal to nil.

The match of the day in Round 19 of the ICU Premier League is the clash between the fifth and sixth placed teams, Kemlawarra and Wollongong Olympic. This is another important game for Kemblawarra as it strives to climb into fourth spot.

Its main rival for the position, Coniston, is playing second last placed Woonona so Kemblawarra cannot afford to slip up as three points seem assured for Coniston.

ICU Premier League Standings

Northern United	42
Port Kembla	40
Bulli	35
Coniston	32
Kemblawarra	30
W. Olympic	24
White Eagles	21
Lysaghts	20
Cringila Lions	19
Shoalhaven City	16
Woonona	16
Fernhill	4

ICU Premier League Results - Rd 18

Woonona	3	Kemblawarra	3
Coniston	2	White Eagles	0
Northern United	3	Lysaghts	0
Cringila Lions	1	Fernhill	0
Port Kembla	2	W. Olympic	0

ICU First Division Results - Rd 18

University	4	Picton	0
Tarrawanna	0	Illawarra U	0
Helengsburch	1	Kiama	1
Warilla Wand	0	Shellharbour	0
Highlands	2	South Coast	2
W. Suburbs	3	Balgownie	1
Berkeley	2	Albion Park	0



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PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 19

Kemblawarra v Wollongong Olympic - Butler Memorial Park

Coniston Lions v Woonona - J. J. Kelly Park

Northern United v White Eagles - Memorial Park

Bulli v Lysaghts - Balls Paddock

Cringila Lions v Shoalhaven City - Crehan Park

Port Kembla v Fernhill - Wetherall Park

INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER

Ram

BILL TURNER CUP



ON THE NET

By the year 2000, the Bill Turner Cup could be firmly established on the Internet, thanks to an important meeting held in the office of the Northern NSW soccer Federation a few weeks ago.

Earlier in the year the Northern NSW Soccer Federation had come on line thanks to General Manager, Gary Screen and Operations Manager, Alan Nisbit.

In discussions with Bill Turner, Screen suggested that the Internet was the next move the Bill Turner Cup should take as all schools were already hooked up to the new system. He also recommended the company that could be the best suited to assist.

The next move saw Turner, Terry Hampton, Noel Cocking, Dudley Lewis, Lindsay Hewison and Warren Sheelah from the Competition Executive, who were available at the time, along with Nisbit, meet at the Federation office in Hexham.

To meet them and offer his expert advice was Robert Wheatley from Internet Sports Management Pty Ltd (iSPORT), located in North Sydney.

Wheatley, a former top player and now an expert commentator, certainly knows his soccer. He impressed the gathering with his down to earth explanations that suited some of the less technically aware 'schoolies' present.

Several features outlined by Wheatley stood out, including such things as; the enhancement of communications among Executives, Area managers, Schools, play-

ers and supporters; opportunity to enhance the image and value of the Bill Turner Cup to sponsors; fixtures and results; introduce or position the competition for those not yet playing within its geographical parameters and of those in other states.

The Bill Turner Cup will have its own website but will have a mutual crossover with the Northern NSW Soccer Federation. iSport has agreed to give specialist training where possible to Area Managers and nominated officials.

QUEENSLAND LEAD

Part of the Bill Turner Cup is actually already well established on the Internet thanks to the dynamic leadership of the Queensland State Manager, David Donaldson. Using his own school's Website, at Windaroo Valley State High School, the Area Draws and Results are to be found there.

The introductory pages have been cleverly produced. The graphics and images are eye-catching. David received some expert assistance from other teachers on the Windaroo staff.

WEBSITE MANAGER

Once the Bill Turner Cup and iSPORT get under way for next year, the competition Website Manager will be Warren



Lake Macquarie High School, formerly Booragul High - producer of many talented footballers

Sheelah. His role will be vital and cooperation from Area Managers and Team Managers/Coaches with him will be extremely important.

Sheelah has already expended considerable time, energy and learning to this specialist role.

TWO MISS OUT

Two of last year's semi-finalists have missed out this year. Queensland's Cavendish Road State High lost in a thrilling quarter-final encounter with Palm Beach-Currumbin.

Leading 2-0 at half-time Cavendish Road looked odds-on to make the Queensland semi-finals. However, Palm Beach-Currumbin made a spirited comeback in the second half to notch three top goals.

Out in the NSW Western Area, Orange High and last year's semi-finalists Delroy High, Dubbo, played a dramatic match which had spectators tense with excitement until the final whistle.

Orange High scored the only goal of the match and will play Daramalan College, ACT. Daramalan won the ACT and Surrounds Area with a magnificent 3-2 victory over Francis Xavier College.

Down on the NSW South Coast, Figtree High won their Area final with a

3-1 victory over a gallant Nowra High, and will meet the Riverina champion in the pre-quarter final.

Notre Dame College of Shepparton, Victoria, who play in the Riverina Area, had to play at its very best to defeat the 1999 surprise packets, Cootamundra High, 3-2 with a 'Golden Goal' in extra time.

It took until the fourteenth minute of extra time to separate Warners Bay and St Edwards College, East Gosford, in their Area 7 final. Warners Bay notched the only goal in one of the rare St Edwards defensive lapses to earn the home game against last year's competition semi-finalists, Endeavour Sports High.

In Sydney's Area 10, Patrician Bros, Blacktown had a comfortable 4-0 victory over a spirited Christ Catholic College (St Agnes).

Christian Bros, Lewisham were too strong for Condell Park winning 4-1, while, arguably, the best game for all Sydney this season saw Westfields defeat Freeman College by 5 penalties to 4 after a 1-1 extra time draw, the result being determined with the last kick of the game.

The form shown by this year's schools indicates that the teams making this year's deciders at Edgeworth on September 7 and 8 will all be parading outstanding squads.

BILL TURNER CUP Results:

Round 5:

Patrician Brothers Blacktown 4 bt Christ Catholic 0, Kadina 4 bt Catherine McCauley 0.



Cardiff High - one of the top Bill Turner Cup schools over a number of years

INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Australian Schools Championships concluded last Saturday with South Australia emerging as the victors in the Boys section and NSW in the Girls section.

The first full championship was held in 1975 for men, and in 1987 for women - the 1999 Championships were held in Canberra in the period 1st - 7th August.

The 1999 Boys champions, South Australia were undefeated for the first five of their six game and had the championship all sewn up before their last game against the runners up, New South Wales. The South Australian boys retained the trophy that their counterparts won last year in Brisbane.

New South Wales, in fact, remained undefeated throughout the competition but paid dearly for the two draws that they were

South Australia had the leading goal scorer in the competition with Ryan Mitchell finishing on top with eight goals, one in front of Newcastle Breakers' Chad Mansley. Four of Mitchell's goals came in the one game when he went on a rampage against the Western Australian team.

A notable name on the goal scorers list is that of Thein Vinh, who must be the first Northern Territory player to have finished third top goal scorer. Vinh was rewarded for his effort with selection in the squad to tour Brisbane and Fiji later this year and early next year.

In the Girls competition the powerful NSW team won all five of its games to easily retain the Championship that they won last year. In fact, the New South Wales girls were so dominant that they did not concede one goal during the championships. The Western Australian team did extremely well this year to finish second with their only defeat being at the hands of NSW.

The decisive match between the top two teams occurred on the third day when NSW defeated the Western Australian girls by 2 goals to nil. The West Australians were compensated by having the two top scorers in the competition.

At the conclusion of the Championships two Schoolboys teams were selected for tours later this year and early next year. The boys selected join an illustrious group of individuals who have represented Australia as champion schoolboys. Amongst the first team selected, in 1977, were the names of Eddie Krncevic, Peter Katholos, Tony Pezzano, Peter

Tredinnick and George Christopoulos.

The following year the list of those that were to reach the heights of Australian soccer as senior players did not diminish. Included in the 1978 team that toured Canada and the USA were Charlie Yankos, Greg Woodhouse, Peter Raskopolous and Krncevic, Christopoulos, Pezzano and Katholos, for the second time.

The names that have followed in the intervening years include such stars as Oscar Crino, Ned Zelic, Tony Vidmar, Craig Moore, Goran Lozanovski and Steve Corica. In recent years Simon Colosimo and Marco Bresciano, in 1996, have been notable names.

The 1999 squad to tour the United Kingdom and Ireland at the end of the year will, hopefully, contain names that will have careers as successful as some the above names.

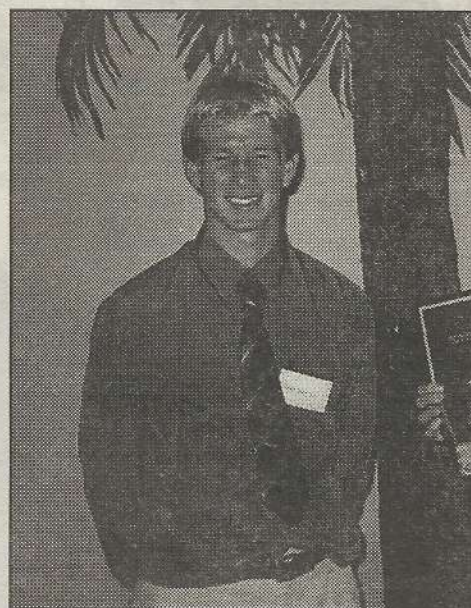
This year's squad features Chad Mansley for the third year running - a remarkable feat in itself. Mansley's team mate, Steven Dimitrievski, is also making a return after having been selected for last year's team.

Another name familiar to football lovers makes an appearance in the squad, Bresciano - only this time it is Robert.

Inside Soccer wishes the squad a successful tour and we will endeavour to bring our readers all the news of the tour later on in the year.

Results courtesy of Australian Schools Soccer

Website - www.geocities.com/~asssa/



Newcastle's Chad Mansley selected in squad



A Queensland player shoots for goal

held to by the weaker ACT and Western Australian teams early in the tournament.

Australian Schoolboys Squad

Antony Ferrante	South Australia
Chad Mansley	NSW
Daniel Dreger	Queensland
Danny Vasilevski	ACT
Jason Dimozantos	Victoria
Liam Reddy	ACT
Lyndon Parry	South Australia
Nahuel Arrate	NSW
Robert Bresciano	Victoria
Robert Gaspar	W. Australia
Ryan Mitchell	South Australia
Shane Maycock	South Australia
Steve Martin	Victoria
Steven Bichler	Victoria
Steven Dimitrievski	NSW
Wes Bryett	ACT

Australian Schoolboys Results - 1999:

NT 1 (Tsirbas) v Qld 2 (Aysen, Low)
 ACT 2 (Julienne, Williams) v NSW 2 (Mansley, Rosier)
 SA 3 (Lucchesi, Ferrante, Marshall) v Vic 2 (Mashoian, Tsiorlas)
 NSW 3 (Mansley, Severino, McLaughlin) v Vic 2 (Martin, Mashoian)
 Qld 2 (Brownie, Slypen) v ACT 2 (Vasilevski, Kemp)
 SA 6 (Mitchell 4, Ferrante 2) v WA 2 (Howarth, Vaz)
 SA 2 (Ferrante, Mitchell) v NT 0
 NSW 1 (Mansley) v WA 1 (Osei-Tutu)
 ACT 0 v Vic 0, Vic 1 (Martin) v WA 0
 NSW 7 (Jackett, Severino - 2, Mansley, Fotiadis - 2, Seitis) v NT 1 (Vinh)
 SA 3 (Paterson - 2, Mitchell) v Queensland 0
 Vic 6 (Tsiorlas 2, Soufi-Sabbah, Rutkowski, Bresciano, Mashoian) v NT 2 (Vinh, Lion), Qld 0 v NSW 4 (Mansley 2, Fotiadis, Severino)
 WA 1 (Vaz) v ACT 2 (Julienne, Larfield)
 WA 1 (Lipman) v NT 0, SA 2 (Mitchell - 2) v ACT 1 (Vasilevski)
 Vic 3 (Tsiorlas, Martin, Dimozantos) v Qld 1 (Dreger)
 NSW 5 (Arrate - 2, Mansley, Rosier, Arrate) v SA 1 (Perotta)
 NT 6 (Vinh - 3, Lion, Silva, Tsirbas) v ACT 5 (Borucinski - 2, Vasilevski, Bryett, Ivanic), Qld 1 (Seipel) v WA 0

Final Table

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SA	6	5	0	1	17	10	15
NSW	6	4	2	0	22	7	14
Vic	6	3	1	2	14	9	10
Qld	6	2	1	3	6	13	7
ACT	6	1	3	2	12	13	6
WA	6	1	1	4	5	11	4
NT	6	1	0	5	10	23	3

Goalscorers:

8 Mitchell (SA)
 7 Mansley (NSW)
 5 Vinh (NT)

Australian Schoolgirls Results - 1999:

ACT 0 v NSW 6 (Syne, Dawney, Shepherd, Ward, Hudson, Garnett)
 NT 0 v Qld 3 (Barkley, Brooks, Morrison)
 Qld 4 (Chandler, Harch, Edwards, Cormie) v ACT 0
 NSW 10 (Ward 2, Syne 2, Madden, Garnett, Dawney, Flewell-Smith, Collins, Hudson) v Vic 0
 NSW 2 (Micallef - 2) v WA 0
 ACT 1 (Harper) v Vic 0
 NSW 2 (Garnett - 2) v NT 0
 WA 6 (Own goal, Devanna - 3, Walker, Woodhouse) v Vic (Kennedy - 2, Haydar)
 Vic 2 (Haydar, Smith) v NT 0
 WA 6 (Walker 2, Devanna 2, Oxtoby, McCallum) v ACT 1 (Cox)
 Qld 0 v NSW 3 (Dawney, Garnett, Shepherd)
 Vic 2 (Haydar - 2) v Qld 1 (Edwards)
 WA 8 (Jobling, Walker - 2, Devanna - 2, McCallum, Harris, Own Goal) v NT 1 (Healey)
 WA 4 (Walker - 4) v Qld 3 (Allen, Edwards, Covey)
 ACT 4 v NT 1

Final Table

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NSW	5	5	0	0	23	0	15
WA	5	4	0	1	24	10	12
Qld	5	2	0	3	11	9	6
Vic	5	2	0	3	7	16	6
ACT	5	2	0	3	6	17	6
NT	5	0	0	5	2	19	0

Goalscorers:

9 Walker (WA)
 6 Devanna (WA)
 5 Garnett (NSW)
 4 Haydar (Vic)
 3 Syne (NSW), Ward (NSW), Dawney (NSW)

CONFEDERATIONS CUP

OLE - MEXICO BEATS BRAZIL IN CUP THRILLER

MEXICO 4
BRAZIL 3

Mexico won the Confederations Cup beating Brazil 4-3 in an electrifying final that ended decades of frustration for Mexico's long-suffering fans.

In capturing their most important international championship to date, the Mexicans handed the Brazil a defeat that had to bring back nightmares from France '98.

A year after defending champions Brazil lost to hosts France in the World Cup final, the scenario was repeated for the Brazilians before crowd of 115,000 jammed into Mexico City's Azteca Stadium.

Brazil, however, played the eight-nation Confederations Cup without most of its top stars, including Rivaldo, Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos, who led the South American side to the Copa America championship last month. Brazil beat Mexico twice in that tournament played in Paraguay.

Mexico squandered an early 2-0 lead in the final, but took advantage of Brazil's relentless attacking to put the match away

with deadly counter strikes.

The win vindicated Mexican coach Manuel Lapuente who had predicted the championship, despite his many doubting countrymen. "I said it and it was confirmed. The Cup was going to stay in Mexico," Lapuente said.

Brazilian coach Wanderley Luxemburgo attributed the loss to sloppy defending but said many of the young players he brought would learn from the defeat.

"Mexico beat us well and this will serve as experience for us," he said.

"We're on the right track for improving in the future."

Mexico struck first at the 13th minute when Miguel Zepeda was fed with a pass through the Brazilian defence from Cuauhtemoc Blanco.

Zepeda hit a high shot from the edge of the box that Brazilian goalkeeper Dida, who had only surrendered two goals in

four prior tournament matches, got his hands on but was unable to keep from trickling into the back of the net.

Mexico increased its

them for most of the first half.

While accustomed to adoring crowds in Guadalajara - the Brazilians' home base in the World Cups of 1970 and 1986 - Luxemburgo's squad faced a constant stream of boos and catcalls from the partisan Azteca Stadium fans.

But as the Mexican defence appeared to relax heading into the break, Ronaldo Assis was brought down in the box by Mexico's German Villa. Serginho coolly converted the penalty at the 43rd minute.

The Brazilians came charging out of the gate in the second half, again taking advantage of a distracted Mexican back line.

Ronaldo Assis, the 19-year-old sensation popularly known as Ronaldinho, fed a perfectly timed low cross that squirted by Mexican keeper Jorge Campos to the feet

of Roni.

Roni, who had just entered that game as a second-half substitute, fired into an open net at the 47th minute.

Just as the Brazilians seemed to be taking control of the match, Mexico struck. A shot from Francisco Palencia deflected off a Brazilian defender, and while Dida appealed for offside, Zepeda beat him again at the 51st minute.

Mexico appeared to put the game comfortably out of Brazil's hand at the 62nd minute.

On a quick counter attack, Blanco collected a long ball from Rafael

Marquez, eluded a Brazilian defender and beat Dida with a low driving shot inside the far post.

But the crowd's euphoria turned into nail biting as Brazil cut the lead to one goal just a minute later.

Ze Roberto snuck in behind the Mexican defence to drive home a Roni cross from close range.

Mexico, however, withstood the Brazilians' onslaught in the game's remaining minutes, helping bury fans' memories of countless heartbreaking defeats on the international stage.



Match Details:

Mexico: Campos, Suarez, Marquez, Villa, Ramirez, Abundis, Blanco, Pardo, Palencia (Terrazas 70), Carmona, Zepeda (Arellano 83).

Brazil: Dida, Odvan, Joao Carlos, Flavio Conceicao, Serginho, Ronaldinho, Emerson, Alex, Ze Roberto (Warley 82), Beto (Roni 46), Vampeta.

Scorers:

Mexico: Zepeda 13, 51, Abundis 28, Blanco 62
Brazil: Serginho 43 pen, Roni 47, Ze Roberto 63

Yellow Cards:

Mexico: Abundis 11, Marquez 21, Blanco 50, Suarez 74.
Brazil: Ze Roberto 5.

Red Cards:

Brazil: Joao Carlos 90

Crowd: 115,000

MEXICO SQUEEZES PAST US

MEXICO 1
USA 0

Mexican forward Cuauhtemoc Blanco scored a "Golden Goal" six minutes in extra time as the U.S. national team was beaten 1-0 by Mexico in the semifinals of the FIFA Confederations Cup.

Blanco's goal ignited the Mexican crowd of 65,000 at Azteca Stadium and came after a goal-mouth scramble which originally began with Blanco playing the ball out of midfield to the right wing. After a cross to the left side of the penalty area, Blanco found himself at the edge of the penalty area where his first attempt at goal clipped off the bottom of his left foot and sent U.S. goalkeeper Kasey Keller diving to his left. With Keller out of the way and

a number of U.S. defenders closing in, Blanco was fortunate to have the ball sit perfectly for him four yards from the goal where he poked it home with his right foot.

"I would first like to congratulate Mexico on the victory," said U.S. coach Bruce Arena. "There were two champions on this field today. Now we will do our best to win the third place match and wish our CONCACAF neighbor well in the championship match."

The U.S. defense did well to contain Mexico's two active for-

wards Jose Manuel Abundis and Blanco, who led the way for the Tri-Colores as they outshot the U.S. 17-7.

Mexico looked certain to score on two separate occasions after 10 minutes, but Kasey Keller in the U.S. goal pulled off remarkable saves to stop a half-volley from Rafael Marquez and a point-blank bullet from Ramon Ramirez.

Keller continued to look unbeatable throughout the 96-minute match, making a number of excellent stops throughout the match.

Match Details:

Mexico: Campos, Pardo, Suarez, Marquez, Carmona, Ramirez (Arellano, 72), Torrado (Zepeda, 58), Villa, Terrazas (Palencia, 46), Abundis, Blanco.

USA: Keller, Fraser, Berhalter, Agoos, Hejduk, Williams, Jones, Kirovski, Harkes, Stewart, McBride (Lewis, 78).

Scorers:

Mexico: Blanco 96

Crowd: 65,000

BRAZIL CANTERS AGAINST SAUDIS

BRAZIL 8
S. ARABIA 2

The rain poured and so did the goals as Brazil crushed Saudi Arabia by eight goals to two in the Confederations Cup semi-final. Ronaldinho got his hat-trick in a game that at one time looked close.

Brazil looked comfortable after just 11 minutes as they went to a lead of 2-0. Then, in a nine minute spate, two goals by Al Otaibi put the match level. Brazil stepped on the accelerator, completed four goals in the first half and four more in the second.

Brazil qualified for the 4th time for a Championship game in as many FIFA tournaments played in the last five years. The South American team reached the World Cup final in 1994 and 1998 (one win against Italy and one defeat against France) and the Confederations Cup

final in 1997 (victory against Australia) and this year. Also, Brazil reached three consecutive finals in Copa America (two wins - 1997 and 1999, respectively against Bolivia and Mexico - and one defeat, against Uruguay in 1995).

Brazil and Saudi Arabia set the record of the highest number of goals scored (10) in a single match in the history of FIFA Confederations Cup.

Brazil repeated the success against the Asian team obtained in the first

head-to-head between the two teams played on 12 December 1997 and in the previous Confederations Cup competition which ended in a 3-0 scoreline to Brazil.

After 503 consecutive minutes played in FIFA Confederations Cup without conceding any goal, Brazil's goalkeeper Dida was beaten by Saudi Al Otaibi. Dida failed to break the record in a FIFA "A" competition, set by Italy's Walter Zenga in 1990 World Cup final phase with 517 minutes.

Match Details:

Brazil: Dida, Evanilson (Flavio Conceicao 16) Odvan, Joao Carlos, Serginho, Ronaldinho, Emerson (Beto 72), Alex, Ze Roberto (Warley 82), Christian (Roni 46), Vampeta.

S. Arabia: Al Deayea, Al Hkila, Zubromawi (Hwsawi 64), Al Dawod, Al Harbi, Al Shahrani (Al Jahani 43), Al Otaibi, Sulimani, Al Subaie, Al Temyat, Harthi

Scorers:

Brazil: Joao Carlos 8, Ronaldinho 11, 65, 92, Ze Roberto 33, Alex 36, 86, Roni 62
S. Arabia: Al Otaibi 22, 31

US TAKES THIRD POSITION

USA 2
S. ARABIA 0

Forwards Paul Bravo and Brian McBride found the net as the United States finished third in the Confederations Cup with a 2-0 victory over Saudi Arabia before 35,000 at Jalisco Stadium.

The third-place finish equals the top overall finish for the senior men's team in a competition under the control of world governing body FIFA. The 1930 U.S. World Cup team finished third in Uruguay. "We earned everything we received in this tournament," said U.S. coach Bruce Arena. "It's been a great experience for these players to come into this tournament and perform as well as they did under some tough conditions."

The U.S. went ahead 1-0 in the 28th minute on Bravo's goal. A long pass from the left touch line by Gregg Berhalter skipped past defender Mohsin Harthi, who miskicked with his attempt to clear. The bouncing ball finished up on the foot of a wide-open Bravo who buried it low into the near left corner from about seven yards for his first

international goal.

McBride put the match away with his goal in the 80th minute. Playing a man down for the final 26 minutes when midfielder Matt McKeon was sent off with two yellow cards in a seven minute span, the Americans made rare forays into attack. Ben Olsen touched ball left to fellow midfielder Eddie Lewis standing on sideline. His cross to the far post was headed by the unmarked McBride from seven yards off the inside right post and into the goal.

Match Details:

USA: Friedel, Berhalter (Fraser 75), Balboa, Brown, Hejduk, McKeon, Kirovsk (Williams 68), Olsen, McBride, Lewis, Bravo (Jones 59).

S. Arabia: Al Deayea, Al Jahani (Al Subaie 60), Al Khilawi, Zubromawi, Al Harbi (Gahwi 70), Al Shahrani, Al Otaibi, Sulimani, Bun Shehan, Al Temyat, Harthi.

Scorers:

USA: Bravo 28, McBride 80

Crowd: 35,000

NEW ZEALAND - WHERE TO NOW?

By Colin Chin

New Zealand have now returned from the Confederations Cup with a creditable record which will no doubt move them up the next FIFA rankings, certainly away from their current 102nd position, and probably well above Singapore.

And like the 1982 appearances in the World Cup Finals in Spain, they will, for the first time since then, deserve a status just short of the top twenty-four in the world. I won't try and predict where that ranking will emerge later this month, but there are smarter mathematicians than us!

But, every football fan in New Zealand will now realise that there is only one way to go - downwards - UNLESS we can quickly arrange further internationals, and again get our players onto the world stage.

Soccer New Zealand (SNZ) headquarters now tell us that invitations to play abroad have emerged from the likes of Cameroon, and also from other Asian countries like South Korea.

However, we also now face the same problems that Australia has suddenly realised. With the end of the European season, a FIFA All-Stars clash with the Socceroos was on, but only weeks later, the same players who had returned home from their contracted

clubs were recalled for pre-season training and unavailable to face Manchester United.

New Zealand was very fortunate that virtually all their players were available for the Confederations Cup matches in Mexico. It was the off-season in Europe, and also Aaron Lines had recovered from his thrombosis.

This situation is no different from when Wynton Rufer was unavailable to turn out for the All-Whites whilst contracted in Switzerland, and the Australians also have to face this insurmountable problem. After all, they have two international fixtures against the might of Brazil coming up. It's not just about creditability, but also about availability.

FIFA's ruling is that players have to be released three days before internationals - but from Europe to the Antipodes, you're talking about two days travel each way!

This rule has to be changed, but there is some hope now that FIFA's Sepp Blatter is looking at standardising all international matches to coincide with the European off-season.

In the meantime, it doesn't help the image of the game here in Kiwiland, as it is unlikely that the public will be seeing the All-Whites in action for a little while. Certainly, not in the short-term. Key players like Michael Utting, Aaron Lines, Che Bunce, Marc Burton and Kris Boucken sim-

ply will not be available for any internationals on this side of the world. It should also be recounted that Rupert Ryan did not make the team following his appearance in the OFC win over Australia, in Brisbane.

This means that internationals will be limited to those playing in either Australia or New Zealand, and that will also be dependent on the attitude of those administrators across the ocean. And beware, that doesn't mean the individual clubs, to whom the players are contracted to, either.

More than that, internationals in the short-term will be limited to what we can afford to pay as a match-fee, and possibly just the Olympic or U23 internationals.

Judging by the last appearances, we just may not be able to foot it, if the recent showings against the Olyroos are any indication. The promising things are that Boucken, Nelsen and Lines will be backing-up in our Olympic campaign.

And like the Australians who, because of their precarious financial position,



New Zealand's Kris Bouckenhooghe

have slid down the rankings from 40th right down to 61st because they have not had any recent internationals, the All-Whites will fall into the same category.

On the positive side, the number of younger players now overseas augurs well for the future.

Besides a few Junior All-Whites (from 1997) in Australia, there is also Michael Wilson (in France), a couple more in Germany, plus Chris Killen at Manchester City, a few others in the Ivy League - and there's recently been a few more trying their luck in the USA.

We've lost Rory Fallon to England, but still have David Mulligan at Barnsley. There will also hopefully be another crop of players to emerge out of the U17s come November - one of which will be captain, Jeremy Christie who has already been targeted by Werder Bremen.

ALL STAR TEAM

After the completion of the Confederation Cup the coaches named the All-Star team for the tournament.

As expected the two finalists, the home team and winners, Mexico, and Brazil dominated the squad. But it was Brazil who got the most players in the squad with four, whilst Mexico had three chosen. Each team had one reserve chosen, as well.

The surprising choice was the selection of Kasey Keller, of the USA, as the best goalkeeper ahead of Mexico's Jorge Campos and Brazil's Dida.

Dida, in particular, seems to have been unlucky not to be chosen as he almost got the record for the longest time without conceding a goal in an official FIFA competition. He kept his opponents score-

less for 503 minutes, just short of Walter Zegna's 517 minutes.

Goalkeeper: Kasey Keller - USA
Defender: Lothar Matthaus - Germany
Defender: Serginho - Brazil
Defender: Ibrahim Hassan - Egypt
Defender: Claudio Suarez - Mexico
Midfielder: Pavel Pardo - Mexico
Midfielder: Ze Roberto - Brazil
Midfielder: Yasser Radwan - Egypt
Midfielder: Flavio Conceicao - Brazil
Forward: Cuauhtemoc Blanco - Mexico
Forward: Ronaldinho - Brazil
Substitutes:

Jorge Campos, Goalkeeper, Mexico
Saleh Al Dawod, Defender, Saudi Arabia
Reny Ribera, Defender, Bolivia
Emerson, Midfielder, Brazil
Harzouk Al Otaibi, Forward, Saudi Arabia

MOORE NEEDS TO IMPROVE FORM

Rangers' under-fire centre-half Craig Moore has been left in little doubt that he needs to improve if he is to save his Ibrox career.

The giant Australian was expected to form a first-choice central defensive partnership with Lorenzo Amoruso this season after returning to Glasgow from Crystal Palace in March.

So confident was coach Dick Advocaat that Moore was up to the task, that he informed £4million man Colin Hendry that he could only expect to be used as back-up as Rangers aimed to repeat their Treble triumph of last term.

But two horror blunders, against FC Haka and Kilmarnock in Rangers' season opener, have placed huge question marks over Moore's ability to succeed in the role.

He was withdrawn from the fray shortly after Ally Mitchell's equaliser at Ibrox in the Kilmarnock game and, although he started against the Finnish league leaders in the Champions League second qualifying round second leg tie, chances are running out for Moore to make his mark.

Moore played quite strongly against Haka and the match is expected to give him additional confidence for the season ahead.

"I am the type of person who speaks to players both individually and in team meetings," said Advocaat.

"The players themselves know if they are in poor form but I have spoken to Craig and told him he has to improve.

"There are players other than Craig who are in the same situation but everyone knows where they stand."

Rangers were without midfield duo Neil McCann and Claudio Reyna in the confrontation with Haka but they easily defended their 4-1 first leg lead.

The contrast between the Glasgow side's performance in Finland in the first leg, when two goals from Michael Mols and one each from Lorenzo Amoruso and Jonatan Johansson saw Rangers ease home, and the scrappy win over Kilmarnock could not be more marked.

However, Advocaat has convinced himself that the opening 2-1 win was not as

bad as he first thought and, with a tough Premier League encounter with Hearts in their second game before the first leg of their third qualifying round tie against Parma on August 11, is feeling quite optimistic.

"After watching the video, it wasn't that bad," said Advocaat.

"They had so many players behind the ball and we missed the speed of Neil McCann and the class of Michael Mols.

"But we have to accept that. I can't say to the opposition 'come and play an open game'."



Australia's Craig Moore needs to pull up his socks

SUKER AND HENRY FOR ANELKA



Suker - will he be celebrating for Arsenal?

Davor Suker admitted he has taken a massive pay cut to join Arsenal as the £3.5million replacement for money-mad Nicolas Anelka as Highbury's top Gunner.

The 31-year-old Croat star was on the equivalent of £40,000 a week with Real Madrid where walk-out rebel Anelka, 20, was due last week on even higher wages - and with a mouth-watering seven-year contract.

But both Arsenal, who will receive close to £24 million in five instalments from Real for the moody French international, and Suker are convinced they have the best of the deal.

Already manager Arsene Wenger has labelled him a goalscorer in the Ian Wright mould to supplement the power and artistry of Dennis Bergkamp and Nwankwo Kanu in the twin-quest to wrest Premiership - and European - supremacy from Manchester United.

"It would not be right for me to give you the figures," said Wenger, "but I can tell you Suker has taken a substantial cut in wages."

"This is very unusual. He can, of course, improve what he earns under our bonus scheme by helping us to win trophies - just as the rest of the squad can - but every new signing is a gamble and I admire him for the one he is taking by coming here."

"He had other opportunities in Greece and Turkey as well as in Spain which were very financially attractive but he has chosen to come to Arsenal and he's happy to fit into the wages structure here."

"I have always been determined not to harm that pay policy but I needed an experienced striker and now I have one at the right price who also has great ability, spirit and desire. He has the talent to be a great

success here and he has the right spirit for us."

In the words of David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman and key transfer negotiator who admits he has been driven to total frustration by Anelka's antics in engineering a way out of Highbury: "We now have a Suker instead of a sulker."

Suker, who has played for eight years in Spain, joining Real from Seville after the Euro 96 finals where he scored a memorable goal for Croatia with an audacious chip over the head of Peter Schmeichel in a 3-0 victory over Denmark at Hillsborough, helped Madrid win the Spanish title in 1997 and the European Cup a year later.

He went on to win the Golden Boot as World Cup '98 top scorer when he spearheaded Croatia's remarkable run to the semi-finals with six goals. And he has netted a total of 130 goals for his two Spanish clubs having started his career in Croatia with FC Osijek and Dinamo Zagreb.

But following a knee operation after the World Cup he made only sporadic appearances in the Real starting line-up and when he fell out earlier this year with coach John Toshack the former Liverpool and Wales star banned him from training with the first team.

Suker's agents had made contact with Tottenham, Fulham and West Ham over the last three months as well as Greek club Panathinaikos but none was prepared to match his personal demands.

He said: "I have no comment to make about Toshack but I have known for some time my ambitions were over at Real. Now I am very lucky to be joining an historic club like Arsenal who have so many great players and so many chances to win trophies."

"That is what I want to do here and I am very happy to get the opportunity. I have seen a great deal of English football on television in Spain and I like it very much."

"When I played in the Euro '96 finals I was very impressed with the atmosphere in the English stadiums and how the fans live for the game. That is what I live for, too - not just the money."

"I know that if I do well here for the club then the club will do well for me. I'm here to work hard and score goals - any kind of goal. I remember the one against Schmeichel, of course, but all goals are of equal value to me - so long as the referee doesn't disallow them."

Wenger insists that his chase for new signings is still not over. He stressed that Suker's arrival was in no way an exchange deal for Anelka and said: "I would have liked to keep Anelka and sign Suker as well."

"No top team can go into a season like this one where we have the Champions League as well as the Premiership, without four strikers. Manchester United showed in the end last season how important that is."

"Bergkamp and Kanu are great strikers but they are more link players than box-players which is what Ian Wright was for us and what Suker is as well."

"The Anelka story is over for us now. David Dein and I have both aged a year in the last two months over this and now we want to look to the future."

"When you are like a father to somebody maybe you sometimes have to accept you won't get anything back in return but it can be sad. I was the one who gave him his chance to come to Arsenal, to win the Double and get into the French international team."

"Surely he can never say that Arsenal were bad for his career."

At least Arsenal will bank a healthy profit from the sale of Anelka for whom they paid Paris St Germain just £600,000 as unofficial compensation when they signed him under the Bosman Ruling in January 1997.

The renewal of Suker's British work-permit will be a formality for an established current international who has signed a four-year contract at Highbury but he will not be available to play for about three weeks.

Wenger explained: "Because he did not play very much at Real last season he is short of match-fit-

ness and we have to work on him the way we did with Kanu when he first arrived here."

"Also he has to go to play for Croatia in a friendly on August 10 and he will probably be able to join up with the first-team group here about nine or 10 days afterwards."

That is just a few days before Arsenal meet Manchester United in the Premiership at Highbury on August 22 with Suker a likely candidate for a place on the subs' bench.

"Nobody is guaranteed a first-team place," said Wenger, "He will have to fight for it like everybody else but I am optimistic he has the technical ability and team-player attitude to do it."

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was true to his word as he made another signing with the purchase of one of Nicolas Anelka's closest friends, Thierry Henry for £10million - but the new arrival declared: "He has his life to lead and I have mine."

Wenger proved his faith in young French talent had been undiminished by the fiasco of Anelka's greed-fuelled move to Real Madrid as he captured 21-year-old Henry on a five-year contract.

Comparisons between the two players are inevitable, given that they are close friends, were born within 18 months of each other and represent the future of the French national team.

They even both have two brothers, although Henry revealed that his own siblings would be staying put in France - unlike Anelka's infamous brothers, who masterminded his breakout from Arsenal amid complaints of feeling homesick and lonely.

However, in direct contrast to Anelka, who is bound for Madrid in a £23.5million deal just two years after arriving at Highbury, Henry came across as a model professional.

Given the anguish that Anelka has just put the club through, vice-chair-

man David Dein was certainly impressed to hear from the Frenchman that he was "proud" to be playing for Arsenal after wanting to join the club for some time.

Although he will not be taking a massive pay cut to join the Gunners, as fellow new recruit Davor Suker did in his move from Real Madrid, Henry will be on roughly the same wages as he was at Juventus - within the strict Highbury salary limit.

With Wenger interpreting for him, the French international told the second Press conference at Highbury within the space of just 24 hours: "Nicolas lives his life and I live mine."

"Even if we are friends, everyone has their choices to make. Personally I'm not convinced that he left London

"If you want to be a big player then you just have to show how strong you are on the field and to accept the comparison."

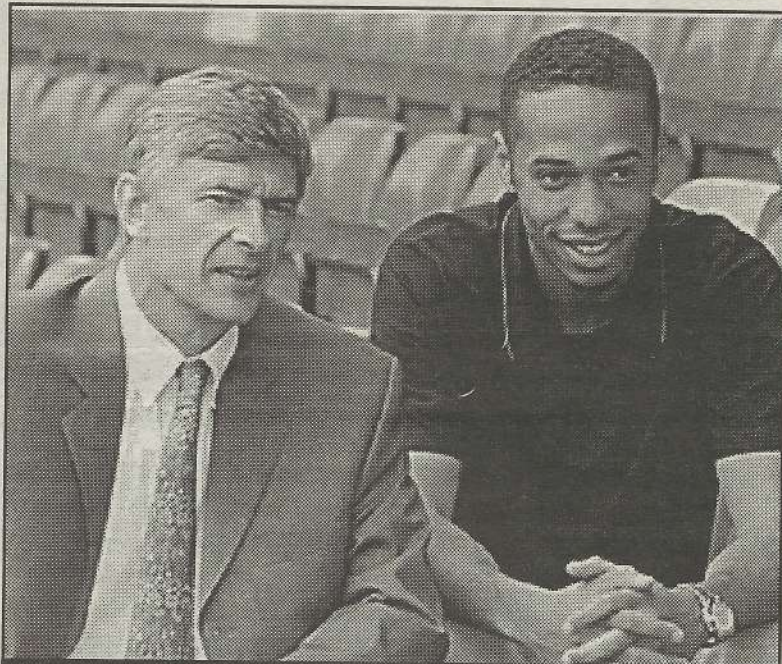
"I think Thierry has the qualities to do as well as Nicolas and it's up to him to show the strength of character and how good he is."

"He's more extrovert than Nicolas, they are different characters even if they are good friends. I personally think that Nicolas is a good guy as well but hasn't been helped a lot."

The Gunners boss added: "We had to replace Nicolas Anelka but I would have gone for Thierry together with Nicolas."

"However, Juventus were quicker than us and Monaco were quicker to work it out with Juventus, I don't know why."

"He called me one hour before he was due to



Henry - an addition to Wenger's French connection

because he didn't love London. He told me that he did love London."

"I have no real plan to settle in England. I will just live normally, try to integrate into the team and try to live well."

"I am very happy and lucky to join a club like Arsenal. I have wanted to play for them for a long time. I know Arsene Wenger and he knows me. This is a great opportunity for me."

Wenger, who plans no further signings before the start of the season, managed Henry as a teenager at Monaco and attempted to sign him almost two years ago when he instead joined Juventus.

The Arsenal boss is convinced that the striker has the maturity and extrovert nature to ensure that he succeeds where Anelka failed in settling into the squad at Highbury.

Wenger insisted: "If you don't want to be compared with anybody then you stay at home."

sign in the office of Juventus and it was too late to act. I advised him that he had no other choice but to sign."

"I had nearly a year's patience with Kanu. Finally, when you have the right patience, you get the players you want."

Henry, who was France's top scorer during last year's World Cup success, also has experience of European football, having hit the target seven times for Monaco in their run to the Champions League semi-finals two years ago.

For the past three years, he has played as a winger but while he could be used on either flank by Arsenal if the need arises, Wenger sees him primarily as a pacy central striker.

Indeed, the Gunners can now approach the new season with refuelled confidence as Wenger can select from four top strikers - Henry, Suker, Kanu and Dennis Bergkamp.

THE ROAD TO THE CHAMPIONS CUP

Rangers duly completed formalities against FC Haka in low-key manner at Ibrox to open the door for a vital Champions League

path to the next round was already assured and there was none of the tension that is certain to be evident when the Italians visit.



Rod Wallace puts one away for Rangers

It took Rangers only 14 minutes to move in front on the night when Michael Mols combined with Barry Ferguson who fed a close at hand Wallace to fire low past András Vlnrotter.

Rangers doubled their advantage before half an hour following a Giovanni Van Bronckhorst corner.

stitute headed firmly into the net.

"There was some excellent movement and if we had scored three of four goals more the feeling would have been much different," said manager Dick Advocaat.

"We scored two quality goals and at times our one touch football was excellent.

"But there is still a lot to do and plenty of improvement to be made."

One problem for Advocaat is a hamstring injury sustained by right-back Dariusz Adamczuk.

Match Details:

Rangers: Klos, Adamczuk, Moore, Amoroso, Numan (Vidmar 40), Ferguson (Nicholson 71), Johansson, Van Bronckhorst, Mols (Amato 45), Wallace, Albartz.
Subs Not Used: Niemi, Wilson.

FC Haka: Vlnrotter, Penttila, Karjalainen, Rasanen (Savolainen 61), Ivanov (Nyyssönen 52), Reynders, Popovitch, Rantala, Wilson, Okkonen, Niemi (Torkkeli 71).
Subs Not Used: Toivonen, Salli, Pasanen.

Goals: Rangers: Wallace 15, Johansson 28, Amato 66.

Crowd: 50,000

Qualifying decider against Parma this week.

Goals from Rod Wallace, Jonatan Johansson and substitute Gabriel Amato sealed a straightforward win in which Rangers oozed superiority if never quite genuine class.

After a comprehensive 4-1 success in Finland, Rangers'

Amoroso's back header was clawed away by Vlnrotter, but Johansson was lurking to nudge home a close range effort to add to his goal as a substitute in his native Finland.

Gabriel Amato wrapped up the scoring as Dariusz Adamczuk's burst forward on the right resulted in a cross the sub-

In other Champions League qualifying games half the teams seeded for the second qualifying round crashed out of the competition as some of Europe's smaller clubs enjoyed upset victories.

The fallen, while not exactly giants of the European game, include teams who all expected to reach the third round of the competition where defeat at least guarantees the consolation of a UEFA Cup place.

But Besiktas (Turkey), CSKA Moscow (Russia), Rapid Bucharest (Romania), Dynamo Tbilisi (Georgia), Genk (Belgium), Slovan Bratislava (Slovakia) and NK Rijeka (Croatia) were all humbled by unseeded teams.

One of the biggest upsets came in Latvia where Skonto Riga secured a third qualifying round tie against Chelsea of England after a comeback 2-1 second leg win over Rapid Bucharest for a 5-4 aggregate victory.

Rapid was winning 1-0 with 13 minutes to go and looked set to qualify before late goals from Juris Laizans (77) and Andrejs Rubins (87) gave the Latvians victory.

Old European campaigner Slovan Bratislava also expected to overturn its 2-1 first leg defeat against Anorthosis Famagusta of

Cyprus but instead fell even further behind when Michael Obiku scored for Famagusta after 58 minutes.

Milan Timko replied for the home team two minutes later but the Cypriots held on for a 3-2 aggregate win and a third qualifying round tie against Hertha Berlin.

Belgian champion Genk also crashed out despite a gallant fightback against Maribor Teatonic of Slovenia. Chasing a seemingly lost cause after losing the first leg 5-1, Genk won 3-0, but Maribor qualified 5-4 on aggregate and now faces Olympique Lyon of France.

Dynamo Tbilisi of Georgia, winner of the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1981, was also eliminated after a last-minute goal from Serghei Epureanu wrapped up a 2-0 win for Zimbru Chisinau of Moldova and a 3-2 aggregate victory.

Zimbru now faces former European champions PSV Eindhoven in the next round.

The potentially explosive game between two teams emanating from countries who are bitter enemies ended without incident.

Yugoslavia's Partizan Belgrade gained revenge for last year's loss to Croatia's Zagreb when they beat Rijeka 3-0 away after a 3-1 home win last week.

WEST HAM SURVIVES

West Ham boss Harry Redknapp was pleased with his team's progress into the final of the Intertoto Cup.

After Paulo Wanchope's 25th-minute goal in Holland put the Hammers on the way to a 2-0 aggregate win over Heerenveen - and a two-legged clash with French side Metz - Redknapp said: "Once we scored we knew they had to get three.

"I was surprised they didn't go for it more but we did our job. I thought Wanchope and Trevor Sinclair were a handful up front and Premiership defences are going to find them a handful this season."

The Hammers passed the ball around well and should have increased their lead in the first half.

But the Dutch side hit back after the break, throwing play-

ers forward, and Shaka Hislop made several good saves.

The Hammers brought on striker Paul Kitson and Joe Cole for Paolo Di Canio and John Moncur respectively, and Kitson went close to sealing the win near the end.

Redknapp admitted after the win that he will make Stuart Pearce the

captain against Tottenham on Saturday in the absence of the suspended Steve Lomas.

The Irishman was involved in a confrontation with one of the Dutch players and Redknapp stressed: "He has got to learn to control himself."

Juventus moved easily into the final round of the Intertoto Cup soccer tournament after a 5-1 demolition of Rostselmash Rostov of Russia.

Alessandro del Piero scored on his comeback after a nine-month injury lay-off.

Filippo Inzaghi scored a hat-trick and Alessio Tacchinardi added the other as the former European champions swept into

the final stages 9-1 on aggregate. They now meet Rennes after the French side drew 2-2 with Austria Vienna to go through 4-2 on aggregate.

Metz who won 2-1 at Polonia Warsaw for a 6-2 aggregate win play West Ham in the second of the final qualifying games.

The third "final" will be between 1983 European champions Hamburg SV and Montpellier, after the French side stopped the chance of an all-German clash with a victory over MSV Duisburg.

Montpellier won 3-0 tonight for a 4-1 aggregate success.

Hamburg trounced Trabzonspor of Turkey 4-1 for a 6-3 aggregate.

The first legs of the finals will be on August 10 with the return legs on August 24. The three winners will go through to the first round of the UEFA Cup.

Heerenveen: Vonk, Hansma, Mitrita, De Nooler, Talan (Hakansson 76), Denneboom (Lurling 60), Samardzic, Huijplaat, Nurmenta, Pahlzinger, Venema (Radomski 45).

Subs Not Used: Ditewig, Pander, Jensen, Holm.

West Ham: Hislop, Lomas, Pearce, Ferdinand, Minto, Sinclair, Lampard, Foe, Moncur (Cole 83), Wanchope, Di Canio (Kitson 73).

Subs Not Used: Forrest, Potts, Carrick, Wright, Keller.

Booked: Foe, Wanchope
Scorer: Wanchope 25.
Crowd: 13,500

BOSNICH PROSPERS, MUSCAT QUIVERS

Socceroo goalkeeper Mark Bosnich has signed the world's richest sponsorship deal for a goalkeeper.

Bosnich, the new No.1 at the world's most famous club Manchester United, will be paid Stg1 million (\$A2.47 million) over the next three years to carry the Umbro logo.

The contract includes boots, gloves and sportswear, and includes bonuses for success.

Meanwhile Bosnich believes the toughest pre-season preparation of his career has him well primed for his new career with the English Premier League giants, "This has been the most intensive pre-season I've ever had," he said of United's tour to Australia and China, and the pre-season training schedule engineered by manager Sir Alex Ferguson.

"I feel in good shape and I will need to be because I've come here to be scrutinised and I'm sure that will happen," said Bosnich, who will have to adjust

to playing behind a back four at United.

"I've been playing in a back five at Aston Villa but I think I will soon adapt to a four-man defence that we will use here," he said.

"I feel I've settled in well but I still need time to get used to each individual player's strengths and weaknesses."

Socceroos defender Kevin Muscat has been fined around Stg6,000 (\$A15,000) by his English first division club Wolverhampton for incurring a drink driving charge.

Muscat was bailed to appear in court in the midlands city of Telford on September 2 after being charged by police last week.

In the meantime the club took its own action after a disciplinary hearing, fining Muscat two weeks' wages.

His high profile team-mate Robbie Keane, who was with him on a night out but escaped charges after a grilling from police, was also fined two weeks

wages - in his case, a total of around Stg15,000 (\$A37,341).

"Professionalism is something I demand at this club and the players have let me and Wolves down," manager Colin Lee said.

"I'm disappointed and I intend to step in hard. They can be sure of that."

Manchester United fans have been boosted by the news that Old Trafford's capacity will pass the 60,000 mark in March.

United's capacity will increase by around 6,000 when the second tier of the East Stand opens in the spring.

United had not expected to be able to use the seats until a year from now, but contractor Birse is on course to complete the work five months ahead of schedule.

Birse will then begin work on expanding the West Stand and when that is completed Old Trafford's capacity will have increased from its current level of 56,024 to 67,400.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CHELSEA EXPOSES GAP IN CLASS

Chelsea 4 Sunderland 0

Chelsea wasted no time in setting the benchmark for this season's title race as they pummelled Premiership newcomers Sunderland into submission at Stamford Bridge with an ominous display of attacking flair.

The Blues may have lost their two previous opening fixtures of the season - both of them against Coventry.

The only minor concern for boss Gianluca Vialli was the two glaring misses by record £10million signing Chris Sutton. By the end, though, they were - thankfully for the centre-forward - a faint memory compared to the inventiveness of his teammates.

Sunderland may have experienced one of their most difficult matches of the season, without new signings Stefan Schwarz, John Oster and Thomas Helmer.

But on this showing at least they served notice that they face yet another perilous struggle against relegation this season.

Vialli's side certainly did not disappoint their fans in a dominant first-half display as, time after time, they carved apart Sunderland's defence with intelligent movement, interchanging of positions and quick one-touch pass-

ing.

Highly rated goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen was all that stood between the Blues and an early goal as he twice denied Poyet and tipped a free-kick by Zola over the bar.

The opener was inevitable, though, as the pressure rained down on the young Dane's goal, and he could do nothing to keep out Poyet's header as the Uruguay international rose high to head home Dennis Wise's corner on 20 minutes.

World Cup winner Deschamps was fitting seamlessly into the Chelsea side in a near faultless, characteristically understated display.

It was just a matter of time before the floodgates opened once more, this time Zola capitalising on a through ball from Poyet to toy with Sunderland new signing Steve Bould before picking his spot just inside the far post.

Sunderland had at least managed to make a match of it but were never quite able to breach Ed De Goey's goal, as the goalkeeper saved from last season's leading scorer, Kevin Phillips, as well as Quinn.

They were duly punished when Chelsea responded by doubling their advantage in a vintage three-minute spell in the closing stages.

First Petrescu played a one-two with Zola before crossing for the unmarked Flo to head home just a couple of minutes after coming on as substitute.

Then Poyet scored the goal of the game and a certain contender for goal of the month as he capitalised on Zola's magical vision by thundering home a first-time volley after the Italian had chipped the ball into his path.

There was still enough time for Flo to head just wide and for Sorensen to make an inspired diving save to deny substitute Roberto Di Matteo.

The only consolation for Sunderland was that this defeat was at least less embarrassing than their last visit to Stamford Bridge, which resulted in a 6-2.

Chelsea: De Goey, Ferrer, Desailly, Leboeuf, Le Saux, Petrescu (Di Matteo 86), Wise, Deschamps, Poyet (Babayaro 79), Sutton (Flo 73), Zola.

Goals: Poyet 20, Zola 32, Flo 77, Poyet 78.

Sunderland: Sorensen, Makin, Bould, Butler, Gray, Summerbee, Ball (Fredgaard 60), Rae, Lumsden (McCann 46), Quinn, Phillips.

Crowd: 34,831

HESKEY INJURED IN FIERY OPENER

Arsenal 2 Leicester 1

Frank Sinclair's own-goal in stoppage time gave lucky Arsenal a winning start to the season but the Gunners were embroiled in a row involving French centre-half Gilles Grimandi after Leicester's young England striker Emile Heskey was carried off to hospital with his head stabilised by a neck-brace.

Heskey's exit was accompanied by a furious reaction from manager Martin O'Neill who clearly felt that Grimandi had pulled the heavyweight front-man to the ground by the scruff of his neck.

But referee Alan Wilkie did not award even a free-kick and had taken no punitive action earlier when Leicester's veteran defender Steve Walsh fell in a crumpled heap and also had to be stretchered off.

It was a case of broken hearts again for gritty Leicester, though, who looked set to inflict on the cosmopolitan Gunners their first home League defeat since December 1997 when 34-year-old goal-poacher Tony Cottee gave them a 57th-minute lead totally against the run of play.

Cottee was among the scorers when Leicester carved out a 2-0 lead at Manchester United on the opening day last season only to surrender a point to a late fightback.

Cottee struck at Highbury after some ragged defending which would have had the injured Tony Adams sneering in contempt. Grimandi gave the

ball away to Neil Lennon just outside the area and the ginger-haired Irishman sent Steve Guppy away on the left to fashion a low cross which perfectly dissected the hesitant Alex Manninger and the stretching Emmanuel Petit.

Cottee joyously tapped into an empty net and for a spell afterwards Arsenal looked desperate.

That was until Dennis Bergkamp, playing his first game of any kind since the end of last season - and looking as though he needed it - snatched a 65th-minute equaliser.

The ball dropped kindly to him off substitute Gerry Taggart from Martin Keown's cross and the Dutchman coolly held off Sinclair's challenge before steering past new Leicester keeper Tim Flowers.

Thierry Henry, left on the subs' bench until the start of the second half, trouble Flowers most and after dragging a shot inches wide of the far post from Bergkamp's through-ball in a hectic finale, it was his header that produced the fortunate winner.

Petit's corner was overhit after Flowers had turned Bergkamp's delicate chip over the bar but Kanu, who had drifted out of the game after an electric start, put the ball back in the box and when Henry headed across goal, Sinclair fatally intervened with a header of his own before Flowers could claim possession.

There seemed nobody near Walsh when he collapsed near the left-wing touchline but the pain on his face was glaringly apparent as he was carried off with

his legs tied together.

The muscular Heskey had been having a running



Henry - debut off the bench

battle with Grimandi and won more than his fair share of free-kicks but just before the break he went down in a crumpled heap.

Ambulance men arrived on the scene after Arsenal's Petit kicked the ball out to stop play and fitted a neck-brace to the young England striker before taking him off to hospital.

Leicester had replaced Walsh with Taggart and he was soon embroiled in a desperate rearguard action as Bergkamp and Kanu probed for openings.

Arsenal: Manninger, Dixon, Winterburn, Vieira, Keown, Ljungberg (Henry 46), Bergkamp (Silvinho 90), Parlour (Overmars 64), Petit, Grimandi, Kanu.

Goals: Bergkamp 65, Sinclair 90 og.

Leicester: Flowers, Sinclair, Walsh (Taggart 18), Izzet, Lennon, Heskey (Marshall 43), Guppy, Savage, Elliott, Impey, Cottee.

Goals: Cottee 57.

Crowd: 38,026

LAMPARD DOES IT AGAIN

West Ham 1 Tottenham 0

Frank Lampard continued his irrepressible form in front of goal to fire West Ham to victory in an intense London derby.

Lampard's goal in first-half stoppage time sealed three points for Harry Redknapp's men who opened in stylish fashion but were made to sweat by a determined Tottenham.

Lampard has already netted two spectacular strikes in West Ham's Intertoto Cup campaign.

West Ham started fluently, reaping the benefit of four European ties in preparation for the

Premiership kick-off. Marc-Vivien Foe hit the bar in the first minute and Ian Walker produced two good saves before he was beaten by Lampard.

Spurs reshuffled and rallied well but ended with 10 men when Justin Edinburgh limped off, 20 minutes from time, after George Graham had used all his subs.

England defender Sol Campbell, booked in the seventh minute for an uncharacteristically clumsy challenge on Trevor Sinclair, was next to go.

Ian Pearce, who missed the end of last season after breaking a leg against Tottenham, was stretchered from the pitch in the 39th minute after colliding with Stuart Pearce.

Ian Walker was in good early touch reacting quickly to turn a Paulo Wanchope header over the bar from close range and tipping a Lampard effort round the post.

Shaka Hislop was beaten in first-half stoppage time as Lampard's golden touch in front of

goal continued. The midfielder accepted a brisk pass from Paolo Di Canio inside the penalty area and poked it past the onrushing Walker.

George Graham made changes at half-time. He threw Les Ferdinand into action against cousin Rio and gave a debut to Oyvind Leonhardsen.

But Tottenham's fight-back ended 20 minutes from time when Edinburgh exited with a hamstring injury.

West Ham: Hislop, I. Pearce (Keller 35), Ferdinand, S. Pearce, Potts, Foe, Di Canio (Cole 85), Lampard, Minto, Wanchope, Sinclair.

Goals: Lampard 45.

Tottenham: Walker, Carr, Campbell (Scales 27), Perry, Edinburgh, Anderton, Sherwood, Freund, Ginola (Leonhardsen 46), Iversen, Dominguez (Ferdinand 45).

Crowd: 26,010



Lampard does it again

SHEARER OFF IN NEWCASTLE LOSS

Newcastle 0 Aston Villa 1

Newcastle striker Alan Shearer was sent off for the first time in his career as Aston Villa snatched all three points at St James' Park.

Referee Uriah Rennie dismissed Shearer for a 71st-minute challenge on midfielder Ian Taylor to leave the England captain and his team-mates fuming.

The referee had already issued seven yellow cards, including one to Shearer, to infuriate the crowd in what was always a competitive but rarely dirty match.

And to rub salt into the wound, Villa took just four minutes to make their numerical advantage count as Julian Joachim sneaked in to score with a near-post header for the only goal of the game.

Newcastle's summer signings Alain Goma, Marcelino and Franck Dumas were all handed

Premiership debuts, but £6million winger Kieron Dyer had to make do with a seat on the bench as Carl Serrant won a start.

Villa included former Liverpool keeper David James and ex-Coventry midfielder George Boateng, while Geordie Alan Thompson made a return to his first club.

It was Frenchman Goma who almost opened the scoring on 18 minutes when he headed Serrant's cross against the bar with James beaten.

Dyer replaced the injured Marcelino at the break, and the midfielder's introduction and looked lively from the off.

The game erupted into controversy on 71 minutes when Shearer and Taylor clashed and the astonished England skipper saw Rennie brandish the red card.

Things went from bad to worse four minutes later when Joachim got his head to Delaney's cross from the right and glanced a header

past Harper to make it 1-0.

Newcastle: Harper, Barton, Marcelino (Dyer 45), Goma, Domi, Dumas, Solano (Robinson 85), Speed, Serrant (Maric 75), Ketsbaia, Shearer.

Sent Off: Shearer (70).

Aston Villa: James, Delaney, Southgate, Calderwood (Stone 87), Ehiogu, Wright, Boateng (Hendrie 56), Taylor, Thompson, Dublin, Joachim.

Goals: Joachim 75.

Crowd: 36,376



Shearer - sent off

Wednesday 1 Liverpool 2

Robbie Fowler set about cleaning up his act and his image by giving Gerard Houllier's radically revamped Liverpool side the perfect start to the new season.

Fowler, on a day when he was at his supreme best, would perhaps have had a hat-trick - but in scoring one and setting up the other the past is now exactly that and the future seems bright.

After Wednesday's Belgian international Gilles de Bilde had clipped the bar with a dipping 25-yard shot, Liverpool then always looked favourites to break a deadlock which surprisingly lasted 75 minutes.

It was a typical surging run, squeezing past three challenges as Fowler carved his way into the area before a narrow angled shot was parried by Owls goalkeeper Pavel Srnicek.

The Czech international was by far the busier of the number ones, with Britain's most expensive goalkeeper Sander Westerveld rarely called upon.

Srnicek at least had Jon Newsome to thank for his timely goal-line clearance in the 23rd minute as Vladimir Smicer drilled in a 12-yarder following another defence-splitting run, this time from captain Jamie Redknapp.

That was shortly before the only minus point of the game for Houllier when £8million

Germany international midfielder Dietmar Hamann limped off midway through the half with an injury to his right ankle.

But that failed to detract from Liverpool's impetus as they pushed forward after the break in search of the victory which finally came their way.

It did not come, though, before Wilson had taken off both de Bilde and Sibon, replacing them with Richard Cresswell and contract rebel Benito Carbone.

One of the largest cheers of the afternoon from the Owls fans came with Carbone's introduction midway through the second half despite his decision not to sign a club record-breaking £27,000-per-week contract.

The Italian set up Cresswell with a gilt-edged chance shortly after coming on. But the former York striker, whose goal beat Liverpool in the corresponding fixture last season, fired at Westerveld.

Within moments Liverpool were in front with Czech international Smicer feeding Fowler with a delightful through ball, the forward then waiting for his moment to lob a stranded Srnicek.

He was atoning for his earlier blunder when he shame-facedly missed a 'sitter', heading over with the goal at his mercy after Srnicek had parried at a split-second's notice a searing Redknapp free-kick.

A stunning Srnicek save at full stretch had also prevented Fowler

from opening the scoring shortly afterwards, before he finally carved out a goal of sublime quality.

After that, Srnicek could only parry again another Fowler effort, and this time Titi Camara - a £2.6million buy from Marseille - was on hand to drive home the rebound.

The final word belonged to Carbone, who will have been unhappy at starting the game on the bench and out to show Wilson that he deserves a starting place.

It was a moment's skill which was as good as anything he managed last season, looking up from the edge of the area before floating over a chip into the top corner beyond a helpless Westerveld in the 88th minute.

Sheff Wed: Srnicek, Hinchcliffe, Thome, Walker, Sonner, Sibon, Rudi, Alexandersson (Cresswell 59), Donnelly (Briscoe 77), Newsome, De Bilde (Carbone 67).

Subs Not Used: Pressman, Haslam.

Booked: Donnelly.
Goals: Carbone 88.

Liverpool: Westerveld, Heggem, Hyypia, Carragher, Matteo, Smicer, Redknapp, Hamann (Thompson 24), Berger (Staunton 81), Fowler, Camara (Meijer 89).

Subs Not Used: Song, Nielsen.

Booked: Thompson.
Goals: Fowler 75, Camara 84.

Att: 34,853

Leeds 0 Derby 0

The youngest ever Premiership strike-force might not have been able to break down a resilient Derby defence, but the new-look partnership of Michael Bridges, 21, and Alan Smith, 18, looks to have the same spirit



Batty battles with Eranio ... Kewell's Leeds failed to win.

Bremner enjoyed.

Leeds would have walked away with the three points but for the Rams' goalkeeper Mart Poom, who made a series of fine saves including a terrific denial of Harry Kewell in the final 15 minutes.

New boys Bridges and Danny Mills looked particularly impressive under the watchful gaze of England coach Kevin Keegan.

Leeds had dominated the territorial advantage in the first period but, without the presence of rebel Hasselbaink, the young strike force lacked height and the home side were forced into shots from dis-

ance.

Bridges could have made an immediate impact but Darryl Powell's poor back pass was quickly spotted by Poom.

Rory Delap fired into Nigel Martyn's midriff after a neat one-two with Stefano Eranio.

And no doubt Keegan will have been impressed

as Prior almost gifted Leeds an opener with a dreadful back-pass. Fortunately the reliable Poom was on hand to clear.

Seconds later, Poom again had to be agile to push David Hopkin's free-kick from the right over his own crossbar after Dorigo had fouled Bowyer.

However all Poom's hard work was almost undone when he failed to hold a Bowyer drive in the 64th minute.

The ball squirmed between his hands but somehow, with Bridges closing in, the Rams' goalkeeper scrambled the ball into his arms on the goal-line.

But the Estonian international atoned for that error when he forced Kewell wide of goal in a one-on-one battle following Delap's atrocious back-pass.

Leeds: Martyn, Mills, Woodgate, Radebe, Harte, Hopkin, Batty, Bowyer, Kewell, Smith (McPhail 52), Bridges.

Subs Not Used: Haaland, Hiden, Duberry, Robinson.

Booked: Batty, Kewell, Bowyer.

Derby: Poom, Prior, Carbonari, Laursen, Delap, Eranio (Borbokis 77), Powell, Johnson, Dorigo, Baiano (Beck 67), Sturridge (Burton 46).

Subs Not Used: Schnoor, Hout.

Booked: Dorigo, Eranio, Johnson, Delap, Powell.

Att: 40,118

Everton 1 Man. United 1

Jaap Stam presented Everton with a 1-1 draw against Manchester United which they will cherish - even if they will not know how they achieved it.

The Reds must realise that it is going to be like this for the next nine months.

They will face teams desperate for any crumb of a result from the master's table.

John Collins in midfield, the ageing centre backs of Dave Watson and Richard Gough, plus Don Hutchison's grit, all kept Everton in the contest.

United could have been miles ahead at the break. After two minutes Roy Keane's chip played Paul Scholes clear in the box, and it took a magnificent save from Paul Gerrard to keep the scores level.

Four minutes later it was too late. A weak Dave Watson header gave United possession, and a blur of quickfire passing between Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Andy Cole put Dwight Yorke into a similar amount of space.

This time there was no mistake, the shot lifted into the net past a diving Gerrard.

Everton openings were few. Barmby cut away from Phil Neville and raced away to blast a 20-yarder that dipped just over the bar, and Mark Bosnich was forced into a flying lunge at Kevin Campbell on the edge of the box.

The nearest Everton got in the first period was Don Hutchison's header of a Mitch Ward cross on the far post, the ball smacking against the outside of the upright.

But Everton kept at it, never losing hope and they should have equalised three minutes after the break when Bosnich spilled a Hutchison shot.

Barmby's effort, though, was blocked by Phil Neville before Henning Berg beat out Campbell's follow-up.

Goodison Park erupted, more in joyous disbelief, and Everton had the unlikely of points late in the game.

Everton, though, held out for the final minutes and escaped with a point that frankly never looked possible.

Everton: Gerrard, Ward (Cadamarteri 70), Watson, Gough, Weir, Barmby, Gemmill, Collins, Unsworth, Hutchison (Phelan 85), Campbell.

Subs Not Used: Ball, Pembridge, Simonsen.



United celebrate after the Cole/Yorke partnership scores again.

Booked: Collins, Watson, Gough.

Goals: Stam 86 og.

Man Utd: Bosnich, Neville, Berg, Stam, Irwin, Beckham, Keane, Scholes, Cole, Yorke, Solskjaer (Butt 76).

Subs Not Used: Van Der Gouw, Sheringham, Curtis, Cruyff.

Booked: Keane.

Goals: Yorke 7.

Att: 39,141

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

MORAVCIK STARS AS CELTIC DOES IT EASY

Celtic 3 St Johnstone 0

Celtic continued their stunning form in coach John Barnes' first competitive match at Parkhead - but it was a man signed by his predecessor Jozef Venglos who inspired the defeat of St Johnstone.

Lubomir Moravcik, the veteran Slovakian brought to Glasgow for a modest £300,000 by Venglos, was the creative force as Celtic dominated an uneven contest from first to last.

Johan Mjallby's seventh minute strike set the tone after Saints failed to deal with a Moravcik corner and Mark Viduka doubled that lead before the interval with a neat back-flick.

Moravcik's set pieces

keeper Alan Main.

The Perth outfit beat Celtic in three of the clubs' four league meetings last term, but had no answer today to the speed of thought and movement offered by the home side.

Moravcik's seventh minute flag-kick was met firmly by Vidar Riseth and when that header was blocked, Mjallby was on hand to convert the loose ball from close range at the far post.

Henrik Larsson's pace took him clear of the visiting defence after 12 minutes, but after rounding keeper Alan Main he lost balance and his weak shot was cleared off the line by Jim Weir.

Viduka's persistence on the edge of the area won Celtic a free-kick after 21 minutes which Larsson curled round the wall, but just the wrong side of the post.

Again adopting a 4-2-2-2 system, Celtic's full-backs Tom Boyd and Vidar Riseth were supporting the attack well only to be let down by the quality of their delivery.

Larsson's ball into the centre deceived Main and as the visiting backline panicked, Viduka showed genuine class and composure with a deft backheel into the net.

A moment of Berkovic

brilliance as he rounded Nick Dasovic set up another opening for Larsson, but the Swede dragged his shot across the face of goal.

St Johnstone introduced Danny Griffin, poised for a switch to Charlton after a short trial at the Valley last week, for John Paul McBride.

It was to no avail however as Celtic moved 3-0 ahead after 50 minutes when a Moravcik free-kick was perfectly aimed for Morten Wieghorst to power in a header unmarked.

Now it was a question of how many for Celtic as they poured forward, notably after 62 minutes when Larsson exchanged passes with Berkovic before hitting his shot against Main.

Craig Burley then came on for Wieghorst to the acclaim of the 60,253 crowd who then paid tribute to Moravcik who earned a standing ovation when switched for Bobby Petta.

Celtic: Gould, Boyd, Larsson, Berkovic, Wieghorst (Burley 63), Lambert, Tebily, Moravcik (Petta 70), Riseth, Mjallby, Viduka.

Goals: Mjallby 6, Viduka 28, Wieghorst 50.

St Johnstone: Main, McQuillan, Dasovic, Weir, Simao, O'Neil (Lowndes 57), Kane (Lauchlan 78), Bolland, O'Halloran, McBride (Griffin 46), Dods.

Crowd: 60,253

Inside

AMERICAN TWO GOAL HERO

Hearts 0 Rangers 4

A goal in each half from Claudio Reyna helped destroy Hearts at Tynecastle as Rangers ran riot.

The ease of the victory could hardly have been envisaged by Rangers coach Dick Advocaat but the way Hearts, rated as the clear third force of Scottish football, subsided does not bode well for the Premier League.

Reyna opened the scoring after 14 minutes, firing in from the right after Mols had pulled away to the touchline to play a neat one-two, the American international sprinting clear of the home defence before rifling home.

Mols has already earned hero status with the Rangers faithful and added a second from an acute angle as the opening period entered stoppage time.

Questions will be asked at the way Gilles Rousset allowed the ball past him from the narrowest of angles but Mols seems destined to bag many more, having now scored three goals in his first four games in the famous light blue jersey.

Reyna tracks back intelligently and, as his double strike proved, has more than an eye for goal.

Doubts were also raised about Mols following a couple of less than impressive pre-season performance.

The Dutchman's strike in first-half injury-time may have owed much to Rousset's failings but his

balance alone created at least three attacking opportunities.

With Scott Severin pulled back to man mark Rod Wallace, Hearts were short on numbers in midfield and Albertz in particular found acres of space, although the German couldn't pull the trigger with one of his famous bullet shots.

The visitors always maintained an air of composure while their hosts looked rushed in possession - a clear sign of the extra quality £50million can bring.

Hearts did enjoy one purple patch towards the end of the first period, with lanky defender Kevin James twice peeling off at the far post to cause trouble from deep, crossfield free-kicks.

On the first occasion, James nodded back into the six yard box where Stephane Adam's instant header was palmed away by Stefan Klos.

A couple of minutes later the former Falkirk man opted to aim for goal himself but failed to direct the chance on target.

A Cameron through ball saw Klos race out to toe the ball away from Darren Jackson's feet as the Rangers defenders gave up the chase.

With the game effectively over, Rangers could have been forgiven for allowing their minds to wander to their European date with destiny.

But it appeared Advocaat had only used the interval team-talk to inspire his men to greater effort.

Off came the under-fire Craig Moore, Sergio

Porrini moving to central defence to partner fellow Italian Lorenzo Amoroso,



Gabriel Amato

Dariusz Adamczuk taking the vacant full-back berth.

Hearts tried a couple of hard tackles to raise the spirits of their disgruntled fans but Rangers merely smiled and swept them aside.

A Mols run resulted in the ball rolling loose to Albertz, who after so many earlier chances, finally decided to take one, his strike finding the corner.

Still Rangers weren't finished, Wallace found space on the left and crossed to Reyna to head home for the final score.

Hearts: Rousset, Pressley, Naysmith, James, Fulton (Juanjo 63), Adam (Locke 83), Cameron, Jackson, Murray, Flogel, Severin (Makel 83).

Rangers: Klos, Porrini, Moore (Adamczuk 45), Amoroso, Vidmar, B. Ferguson, Mols, Wallace, Albertz, Reyna, Johansson (Amato 76), Adamczuk (I. Ferguson 76).

Goals: Reyna 14, Mols 45, Albertz 67, Reyna 73.

Crowd: 17,893



Viduka celebrates another goal

were superb all afternoon and another led to Celtic's third as Morten Wieghorst headed firmly past the reach of St Johnstone

played

SUB IN LATE EQUALISER

Motherwell 2 Dundee 2

Substitute Joaquim Ferraz capped a Dundee United second-half fightback with an equaliser against Motherwell 10 minutes from time.

Lee McCulloch's first-half double strike put Motherwell in command but Scotland striker Billy Dodds sparked the United revival when he scored from the penalty spot in the 69th minute.

It was a day of mixed fortunes for Motherwell who started off brightly but then lost their way.

Striker Don Goodman was sent off in time added on for a second bookable offence.

McCulloch fired Motherwell ahead in the 17th minute, latching on to a John Spencer cross and drawing keeper Alan Combe from his line before slotting the ball in off the far post.

He almost added a

second in the 32nd minute when he beat Combe to the ball and got the touch to send it goalwards but could only look on in anguish as the ball struck the post.

David Worrell was faster to the rebound than the eager McCulloch and he cleared the danger.

McCulloch's second came in the 36th minute with a well worked effort. Steve McMillan crossed into a packed penalty area where McCulloch bravely threw himself at the ball to head it over the line.

A Dodds-inspired United were livelier after the break and Dodds pulled one back from the spot in the 69th minute after Rob Matthaei had pulled down Ferraz.

Then with 10 minutes to go a splendid David Hannah cross caught out the home defence and substitute Ferraz, for the second successive Saturday, headed a great equaliser to reward United

for their fightback.

Then with the game moving into time added on, Goodman fell to the ground after a challenge with Combe and referee Alan Freeland had no hesitation in booking him for diving - a decision that meant a red card.

Motherwell: Goram, Doesburg, Thomas, Teale, McMillan, Matthaei, Brannan, Valakari, Spencer (Nicholas 85), Goodman, McCulloch, Adams (Townsend 69).

Sent Off: Goodman (90).

Goals: McCulloch 17, 36.

Dundee Utd: Combe (Ferraz 60), Combe (Easton 85), Worrell, De Vos, Jonsson, Pascual, Davidson, Skoldmark, Hannah, Paterson, Dodds, Thompson.

Goals: Dodds 69 pen, Ferraz 80.

Crowd: 6,791

ABERDEEN WOES CONTINUE

Kilmarnock 2 Aberdeen 0

A double from 21-year-old Garry Hay on his home debut gave Kilmarnock a deserved win to continue Aberdeen's desperate start to the season.

Both teams struggled to get a grip of the game early on with the visitors perhaps having the better of their opponents.

But with the few chances that came their way there was little excitement for the fans or action for the goalkeepers.

Jim Hamilton posed an early threat for the Killie defence with a header from an Eoin Jess cross that flew across Colin Meldrum's goal.

Soon, however, the home side began to gain in confidence and troubled the Dons' defence.

The main threat was on the left hand side where Hay was given yards of space to slip in crosses at will.

Ally Mitchell, who scored for Killie at Ibrox last weekend, had a chance to double his season's tally but his burst through the middle ended disappointingly when he blasted the ball high over the crossbar.

Aberdeen, in contrast, rarely troubled the Kilmarnock defence, a low drive by Nigel Pepper on 28 minutes a rare exception, but Meldrum watched the ball fly a yard past his right hand post.

Then, after a sustained period of Killie pressure, the Rugby Park side took the lead.

Hay broke into the box, took a Mark Roberts cross in his stride, and slotted the ball past David Preece.

After the break Kilmarnock went on to dominate the match but found it difficult to score.

And so it was left to Hay to score Killie's second and even at this stage it must be a candidate for goal of the season in the 62nd minute he spotted

Preece off his line and scored with a cracking shot from 35 yards.

On 70 minutes the youngster missed a chance for his third, firing the ball wide of the goal.

A late flurry by Aberdeen gave their fans something to shout about but once again, it was an afternoon they will want to forget.

The win for Kilmarnock will give them a boost for their UEFA Cup tie when they play KR Reykjavik.

Kilmarnock: Meldrum, MacPherson, Hay (Canero 88), Innes, McGowne, Dindeleux, Reilly (Mahood 78), Mitchell, Holt, Jeffries (Vareille 73), Roberts.

Goals: Hay 38, 62.

Aberdeen: Preece, Whyte, Smith, Jess (Wyness 66), Pepper, Winters (Gillies 56), Kiriakov (McAllister 83), Dow, Anderson, Young, Hamilton.

Crowd: 8,378

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS



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